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P R A C T I C A L
O B S E R V A T I O N S
ON THE
NATURAL HISTORY AND CURE
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

I N T H R E E V O L U M E S.

V O L. II.

By JOHN HOWARD, SURGEON.

L O N D O N

PRINTED FOR R. BALDWIN, AND T. LONGMAN, PATERNOSTER ROW; AND J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD.

MDCCLXXXVII.



VENEREAL DISEASE

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. II.

BY JOHN HOWARD, SURGEON.

LONDON

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

METHOD OF CURE UNDER CONFINEMENT.

THE devastation made by the sudden and unexpected appearance of the *Lues Venerea* at the period mentioned in the former part of this work, called forth the attention of mankind to the wonderful properties of mercury; and fortunate it was for the human race, that the knowledge of the remedy followed in a few years after the propagation of the disease. Quicksilver extinguished, by rubbing it with axungia or some such substance, had, long before the æra of the *Lues Venerea*, even from the

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B

days

days of Mahomet, been recommended for some cutaneous diseases by the Arabian physicians; but it had been always used sparingly, and with the utmost degree of caution.

At first, some of the most ignorant in matters of science ventured on its application to the *Lues Venerea*; from these, it passed into the hands of Berengarius Carpenfis, a very able surgeon, who employed it with astonishing success; and after him, it was adopted by Johannes de Vigo, and others. It is somewhat singular, that many of the medical writers in the beginning of the sixteenth century were, notwithstanding the evident utility of mercury, for a number of years, with very unbecoming obstinacy, attached to their old Galenic rules. But at length, though the prejudices against it were vehement, and though many errors must have been committed, during its early exhibition, by a rude and indiscriminate application, yet so striking were its effects, that it justly made its way against every obstacle.

There

There are three general methods, by which this medicine may be absorbed into the system, so as to be capable of acting on the constitution, and on the disease. First: It may be absorbed by the cuticular pores almost in any form, but modern practice has adopted only one, namely, that of inunction. In which the crude mineral, after purification, is extinguished by long triture with hogs-lard, or some such substance. The patient himself rubs this composition into the thighs, legs, or some other large surface of his body, with his naked hands. The physicians and surgeons of the sixteenth century frequently caused the particles of mercury to enter the circulation by the same route, but in a different way, by fumigating the denuded body; but this practice has been long out of use.

Secondly: It may be received by the mouth in a state of vapour detached from sulphur, by means of heat; as in the common method of fumigating the internal parts of the throat.

B 2

Thirdly:

Thirdly: It may be taken internally in a great variety of forms.

Each of these methods of introducing the medicine will ultimately raise the same, or nearly the same symptoms of salivation and its attendants. But there is a very great difference as to the manner in which they operate in bringing about these changes, and there is also some, as to the certainty with which they act on the disease.

Inunction is the most simple, and at the same time the most certain method of employing mercury; and, generally speaking, ruffles the constitution much less than any other. In this way, it may be received into the system, and completely mixed with the circulating fluids in any given quantity, and when the mouth becomes at length affected, it is in some measure secondarily; that is, from the natural attraction, or tendency of the medicine to the salivary glands, after it has gone the round of the circulation, in a fair and equable manner. Perhaps, it acquires the antivenereal effect, or what
has

has been improperly called its specific power, in consequence of a preceding, or attendant internal alteration produced in the animal fluids and on the living power. This change it brings about with the least possible disturbance to the machine, neither irritating the mouth nor the digestive organs, but as a general stimulant. The only inconveniences of the method are, an herpetic kind of eruption, which sometimes arises from its local stimulus on the part rubbed, and the labour of performing the frictions properly: But these inconveniences are trifling, when compared with the manifest advantages it possesses over every other method.

The modern practice of receiving the mercurial vapour from a decomposition of cinnabar by means of heat, simply by the mouth, has been most frequently ranked among the most powerful mercurial topics; and has been used, not so much with the intention to operate on the system in general, as to stop the rapidity of a particular symptom, by its immediate and local application to the part dis-

eased; and hence it has constantly been recommended as a powerful means of stopping the progress of a spreading ulceration of the tonsils, uvula, &c. But I, must observe, that when thus employed, although its action is twofold, it is by no means so extensively useful as the method first described. For though it has certainly a powerful partial, yet it has, at the same time, but an uncertain, and in some habits, a very weak, general effect on the system; and for that reason, it follows, that whenever a more than ordinary disposition to salivation and its consequences prevails, this, as well as every other method of applying mercury directly to the salivary glands must be precarious; or, in other words, its immediate stimulus, on the organs which furnish the lymphatic discharge in salivation may bear an over proportion to the quantity of mercury admitted from the absorbents and in actual circulation with the general mass. This observation is particularly applicable to all those who from the natural sponginess of their gums,
from

from a scorbutic acrimony in their blood, or other causes are predisposed to salivate readily. But when the contrary disposition prevails, and there is a great difficulty in raising salivation, and the proper concomitant internal changes, the disease being at the same time very little altered; in that case, a cinnabar fumigation, or perhaps any other local mercurial stimulant, will act with the most clear and decisive efficacy; and by imparting to the medicine the property it wants,—the power of salivating; the cure of the disease immediately follows the painful affection of the mouth and salivary glands. And when a powerful salivation follows this local stimulus, from the vapour of mercury, its general are sometimes no less remarkable than its partial effects, and it seems to cure as perfectly as any other mode of using this medicine.* But it is not by any means so universally applicable to every constitution as frictions.

B 4

Mercur-

* Vide page 19.

Mercurials used internally are of various kinds and of different degrees of strength. In all of them the power of raising salivation and its usual attendants seems to be the predominant property; but they also act with more or less irritation on the stomach and bowels: thus *Turpeth. min.* in a full dose operates as an emetic—*Mercur. calc.*—*Calomel*—*Mercur. alcaliz.*—*Argent. Viv. cum Balf. Sulph. ext.*—*Solut. Subl.* even in small doses, will frequently become highly purgative. This effect makes them inconvenient to those who have tender bowels; not only from their stimulus on the intestinal canal, but because under this circumstance, only a small portion of the medicine can enter the circulation.

It was formerly a practice to give the *Turpeth. min.* in the dose of eight grains, as an emetic, by way of revulsion in *hernia humoralis*, but this has been long since disused; however there are some practitioners who still employ it in very small doses, as half a grain, with some
other

other less irritating preparation of mercury; and with considerable success.

Mercurius Calc. The crude mineral employed in the preparation of this medicine is generally thoroughly purified, and what is rather singular, after it has undergone a calcination for some months, it is neither increased nor diminished in its original weight; so that it is not only more free from admixture with foreign substances, but probably more pure than any other chymical preparation. It is very active, and at the same time perfectly safe. It should be levigated with the utmost care, to the greatest degree of fineness; and when so prepared will salivate very readily. It is however apt to run off by stool in those whose bowels are weak and irritable.

Calomel as an antivenereal is not, I believe, so powerful as *Merc. Calc.* It is however when levigated thoroughly, and this operation cannot be done with too much care, both a safe and efficacious preparation. Though both this and the *Merc. Calc.* are in large doses highly purgative,

purgative, yet it is no uncommon thing for moderate doses after two or three days exhibition to set perfectly easy; the intestines becoming in a short time accustomed to the stimulus. When they irritate too much they may be restrained by being joined with opium.

Mercurius alcaliz. and *Hydrargy*: extinguished by long trituration with *Bals. Sulphur.* irritate the digestive organs much less than any other preparation of mercury used internally that I have hitherto employed. They will salivate very readily. But the last, is by far the most powerful, comes the nearest in its operation and effects to frictions, and possesses so great a degree of antivenereal power, that I have known it cure not only when these, but the usual preparations of mercury for internal use, have failed.

Solution of Corrosive Sublimate. In this preparation the powers of the medicine, as an antivenereal, are greatly limited by its extreme acrimony. Though by giving the solution in small doses for a length of time, we can sometimes very certainly
cure,

cure, both when the intention is to salivate, and when it is not. Yet, whenever it is exhibited in a constitution accustomed to the stimulus of mercury, and in some others, in which the antivenereal change in the system is with difficulty raised, the quantity of the medicine in actual circulation being small, the impression made on the habit is often too weak: other antivenereals must, therefore, be joined with it to obviate this inconvenience; thus *frictions*, *Merc. alcaliz.* or *Merc. crud: Bals. Sulph. ext.* may be ~~be~~ added; and from the operation of the two medicines there will frequently result a degree of power which they do not possess singly. The best vehicle for *Corros. subl.* is brandy; which should be diluted with a large portion of some watery fluid. Liquorice tea disguises the metallic taste of the medicine better than any thing I have tried.

I have given it as my opinion, that calomel and the solution of sublimate have, with little variation, the same specific antivenereal effects, as the preparations

tions

tions of the crude mineral; or, in other words; that the power of producing the necessary changes in the animal fluids, either with, or without a correspondent affection of the mouth, varies in degree only, in the different preparations; and taken, as a general rule, what has been said, is, I believe, strictly true.

But with respect to the solution, there seems to be, in theory, a further distinction necessary. Compare a grain of corrosive sublimate, (which is a chymical combination of crude mercury and the muriatic acid) with the same quantity of *pil: ex mercur. crud. (bals. sulph. extinct.)* Divide the grain of mercurial salt, and the same quantity of the pill, into eight parts; give an eighth of each, twice a day, for several days; and observe the result. There will be a much more speedy antivenereal effect from the sublimate, than from the preparation of the crude mineral; and yet the latter, when given in a proper dose, will cure with more certainty: it will cure even when frictions have failed. Whence arises this

this difference? It is, perhaps, owing to the very intimate combination of the mineral with the muriatic acid which renders the sublimate readily miscible, and of easy assimilation, with the several fluids of the body. This property of the saline mercurials, may, perhaps, give them one advantage over the more gross preparations of the crude mineral, namely, that, of checking the progress of a venereal symptom sooner, than they do. If this is really a fact, the mercurial, which takes up the largest proportion of salt in combination, would be, perhaps, preferable, even to the solution. Ward's white drop answers to this description; as it is less acrid, and probably more diffusible in the animal fluids, than sublimate, it may deserve, even as an anti-venereal, more attention than has yet been paid to it. There are also other cases, in which the saline preparations may be singularly applicable. When genuine symptoms of the disease; such as chancres, venereal sore throats, venereal eruptions, &c. have been broken down,

down, but not perfectly eliminated by the use of mercury, the symptoms which remain, or re-appear, sometimes, take a new form. They not only become anomalous; but shew that the lymphatic and nervous systems are viciated in a manner totally different from what is observable in a pox, uninfluenced by mercury. I have already mentioned * the case of a patient, who, after a supposed cure, had, for many years, a regular succession of symptoms, which appeared to have the venereal type, but which were too imperfectly marked to put on the natural, and more usual appearance of the disease. And I have sometimes observed, long after the cures have been performed, that a few solitary eruptions, resembling what are called scorbutic, but with something of the venereal hue about them, would break out, and give relief to wandering pains. Some of these cases may be greatly relieved, and others cured, by such saline mercurials, as pervade with facility,

* See the Anomalous Symptoms, Vol. I.

facility, the finer secretory organs. In these cases, I believe, the solution is preferable to calomel, and perhaps, Ward's white drop may be still more efficacious, than either. When the *Lues Venerea* has passed its acmè, that is, has proceeded in its natural course till it has produced an eruption, which has been removed by mercury; and that mercury has not cured the disease, but only enervated it, and given occasion to the rise of a slight affection of the periosteum of some one, or more bones, then also, the more active saline preparations, by circulating readily through parts, which the more gross preparations can reach, only by contact, or by producing the most unequivocal general effects on the system, may be highly useful.

If mercury is united with one particular preparation of antimony, a medicine will be formed which will approach somewhat to the idea generally entertained of an alterative antivenereal.—Crude mercury, rubbed down with *bals. sulphur*, we have elsewhere observed, is
one

one of the best methods of making a very safe, and active preparation for internal use. Triture the mineral with *flor. sulph.* and it becomes, as an antivenereal, inert; but incorporate *calomel* with *sulp. aur. antim.* as in Plummer's pill, and the compound shews more activity than the *Æthiops*, but considerably less, than the crude mercury extinguished with balsam of sulphur; nor has it the same disposition to salivate, which this last medicine always has. Indeed, if a more active mercurial is given, after a long continued use of Plummer's pills, the mouth will sometimes become affected. But when employed alone, it very seldom, shews any such disposition*; and, therefore, is rather applicable to such cases of the lues as have been already treated with mercury.

disease. *on*

* I have lately met with a singular instance of its salivating violently, from a sudden exposure to cold, by getting out of bed in winter, though the quantity of the preparation taken amounted only to a few grains.—But in this case, it was not, in my power to ascertain, whether the trituration of the mercurial, with the *sulp. aur. ant.* was properly effected.

in a more powerful form, than to be depended upon for the actual cure of the disease. Thus, when a bubo, during a mercurial process, instead of healing, becomes what surgeons call phagedenic; a case, in which the habit is generally much too irritable, and the blood impoverished; Plummer's pill will frequently have a very good effect, both when given alone, and when employed with *sarsaparilla*. And under the same circumstances, the smallest doses of *calomel*, *mercur. calcinat.* and *sublimate* have succeeded: and probably, in the case now pointed out, they frequently cure, more by correcting the habit, and gradually meliorating the animal fluids, than by their specific action, as antivenereals. It has been supposed that the mere stimulus of mercury, when kept up for a sufficient length of time, would effect a cure in the worst cases, though it produced none of those effects which are constantly decisive in the treatment of venereal patients. If this were true, the medicine, whose properties I am now

endeavouring to point out, would be inestimable. It will, to a certain degree, mitigate many of the symptoms, which are truly venereal; but I have never yet seen a person cured by it. Very small doses of *calomel*, *mer. calc.* and *sublimate*, are more to be depended upon. But they are all inadequate to the end proposed; because, when employed *in this manner*, they have too slight a degree of stimulus; without the very necessary property of affecting the mouth. And I have not yet met with any medicine capable of *curing* the disease, that has not had, this property.

The practitioner must, indeed, have very limited ideas, both of the disease, and the remedy, who confines his resources to any one specific method, or preparation of mercury.

The disease comprehends a great variety of symptoms; some of which are easy, others, very difficult of cure. To this variation the known power of the medicine must be properly adapted. It is to the full as absurd to think of curing
every

every species of small-pox, from the most distinct to the most confluent, and malignant kinds, by one, and the same means, as the *Lues Venerea* by any one method of employing mercury. And I believe the more a man fees of the disease, the more he will be convinced of these truths : that extensive views, and a liberal accommodation of the leading circumstances of the two methods I am about to describe, to the different cases that may occur, will give, that general success in practice ; which no over scrupulous adherence to any one method, or medicine, will ever arrive at.

Some one or more of the preparations above mentioned are in general use for the cure of the *Lues Venerea*, and are exhibited under two, very different methods.

In the one, the patient is closely confined to his chamber or house ; in the other, he takes exercise in the open air, and follows with, some restriction, his ordinary pursuits. The first, from the

consequences generally following it, has been called salivation, but as it frequently cures, without bringing on either a sore mouth or considerable discharge of saliva, it may with more propriety, be called, the method under confinement. The last, from the very slight degree of salivary affection produced, may be called an alterative course.

In the method of cure under confinement, there is a quick accumulation of the medicine in the system, and a rapid progress in its effects. In the alterative method, a slow one. In this last, however, the quantity taken in the aggregate is generally much greater, and hence some have insisted that it must be more completely curative. Without entering at present into this matter, we shall only observe, that each method has its advantages and disadvantages: there are particular habits in which the leading circumstances of the one method are more applicable than the other: there are certain stages of the disease which yield much ~~much~~ more readily to the one than the

the other, and these, I shall endeavour to point out.

Those, who have principally favoured the alterative method have not failed to set before our eyes the pain, the confinement, and other unavoidable inconveniences of the other method. Some of these, however, they have greatly exaggerated, and, as if their sole aim had been to influence the passions and ill-founded apprehensions of the weak and timorous part of mankind, under the word Salivation they have indiscriminately, and in the lump, reprobated every mercurial affection of the mouth whatever; without affixing a precise or determinate idea to the term; without noting the difference between salivation under confinement, and that kind of sore mouth which eight times in ten follows the alterative method; or, what is more to the purpose; distinguishing between a short, and a long continued ptyalism, a slight, or a violent one. But unfortunately amidst all this their love of refinement, they have omitted to point out the

inconveniences (and there certainly are some) of what are called alterative methods. Thus, by giving only a partial view of one of the most important practical questions in the whole circle of physic, they have persuaded all those who are not competent judges, and these, I fear, are not a few, that a process, which in skilful hands is totally devoid of danger, and which in general is not only the most certain, but most speedy method of curing the worst and most inveterate stages of the disease, should be decryed in every instance whatever. For, it has been said, with a great deal more boldness than truth, to be *never* necessary. This doctrine, I am sorry to say it, has gained ground amazingly; from that natural bias the human mind ever will have, to avoid what, in speculation seems, and what in fact sometimes is, a painful remedy. It has, from those who were not thoroughly conversant with the subject, very unfortunately for the extension of practical knowledge, crept into our schools of physic; and there are many,
well-

well-disposed persons who still believe it rather retards, than promotes the cure of the disease. This, is by no means the whole of the mischief it has done. It has led many young people astray, and induced them to separate two things in practice, which are generally, and which ever should be, inseparable: I mean, the antivenereal power of mercury, from its well-known tendency to cause an affection of the mouth. Hence, it has happened that the single circumstance which most indisputably characterises the action of this medicine from every other, has been of late years but little attended to; and we have been taught to believe, that we could in all cases know, when it has properly entered the circulation; and ascertained its effects on the disease by other circumstances. Notwithstanding which, it might be proved with the utmost ease, that be the method or preparation employed what they may, a tenderness of the mouth is, of all the *external* most obvious effects of the medicine, that, which most certainly, and unequivocally

marks, its antivenereal power on the disease; and that the single hinge, on which success turns in every case, no matter by what method it be treated, is the change which takes place in the system at the approach of, and during salivation. It is true, this change may be brought on in some constitutions with but a slight affection of the mouth, but it is no less so, that a considerable one is most frequently raised, before the decisive and necessary alteration can be produced, on the disease; I mean, before an obstinate primary, or secondary symptom can be cured.

If we for a moment reflect on the peculiar state of the salivary glands when mercurially sore, how totally different this is, from the other obvious effects of the medicine; and how much more likely the skin, the kidneys, and the intestines are, to be influenced by adventitious circumstances than the mouth; we shall at once see, that neither increased perspiration, preternatural flow of urine, nor any laxity of the bowels, short of a
dysenteric

dysenteric kind of purging, can measure the antivenereal power of mercury with so much certainty, as salivation *. How often do we see the most rebellious secondary symptom withstand the fair introduction of a very large quantity of the remedy, without perceiving the smallest favourable alteration ! but upon the first appearance of symptoms of salivation the scene immediately changes ; the farther progress of the disease is stopped at once, and from the most malign, suddenly puts on the most benign aspect. What fully evinces the amazing influence of this effect of the medicine, the amendment does constantly, and invariably keep pace with the internal changes at such time going on in the system. And when this process takes place *fully* from a very small quantity of mercury (an accident which sometimes happens to the most careful practitioner, though he does his utmost to avoid it) the revolution seems,

and

* By salivation is meant, a general affection of the mouth, with its concomitants.

and perhaps in a few cases, actually is, as completely antivenereal, as when twenty times the same quantity has been used.

* This, is a proof, that the good effects
are

* In the year 1770, a gentleman, who had had the disease upon him for years, applied to me with the following symptoms:—Very distressing venereal pains—nodes on both *tibiæ*—a few venereal eruptions on his body—the *alæ nasi* ulcerated—the *septum narium* so greatly corroded, that there was a very large opening from one nostril into the other—ulcerated *tonsils*—and a large venereal ulcer on the posterior part of the *æsofagus*, with great emaciation. The first night he rubbed in *Ung. Mer. fort.* ʒj. and took *Calomel* gr. ij. and in the course of that day, to stop the further progress of the ulcerations in his throat and nose, *Cinnabar* ʒss. in the way of fumigation. As these seemed on the following day, to have produced no sensible effect, at twelve o'clock at noon he fumigated again with the same quantity of *Cinnabar*; before ten at night he had all the symptoms of an approaching salivation, but did not take a grain more mercury for nine days; the salivation, fætor, &c. were considerable; the symptoms immediately gave way; the nodes soon disappeared; the ulcerations put on an healthy appearance, and when, after nine days continuance, the flux began to subside; though he actually seemed to be in a manner well, yet having often observed that a rapid salivation from a small quantity of mercury sometimes deprives the practitioner of an expected cure, the spitting was moderately kept up by frictions, and not discontinued till he had used two ounces of the *Ung. Mer. fort.*
After-

are not ascribable to the mere quantity of medicine, but to some other cause. Sydenham, whose sagacity in describing the natural appearances of diseases, was only equalled by his honesty in fairly relating the effects, which medicine had on them, believed that the *Lues Venerea* was not curable by any quality of mercury, purely specific, but by salivation only. And however much that doctrine may contradict modern opinions in this and other countries, a rigid mercurial course under confinement would never be had recourse to, as the last resource of the unfortunate, when the violence of the disease has repeatedly baffled the several alterative methods now in vogue, if it had not a superior antivenereal power. The consequences resulting from a fair and full affection of the mouth and salivary glands, were too striking to escape the discern-

Afterwards he was put upon an alterative course, taking *Calomel* gr. ij. *omni nocte cum decoct. scarf.* lbj. per diem. He is now living, and never had an ach or a pain of the venereal kind since—nor the smallest return of any one venereal symptom.

discernment of this great man, who has very judiciously connected the most obvious and general effect of the remedy with the cure of the disease. Subsequent writers have endeavoured to gain the same end by different means; but the great, the leading principle has remained to the present day, somewhat changed indeed, but not materially altered; for we must, in all obstinate cases, and in every method of treatment, still look up to a mercurial affection of the mouth, if we mean to make perfect cures in so rebellious a disease as the *Lues Venerea* really is.

A rigid mercurial course under confinement, in which the doses of the stimulant are large and repeated at short intervals, whether the affection of the mouth and salivary glands be considerable or otherwise, has been called salivation; and it may be relied on, as a fact that the more violent the affection, *cæteris paribus*, the greater will be its anti-venereal power. But when I lay down that
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that position, I say also, that this power is certainly in some instances to be obtained, even under the closest confinement, without salivation; or at least with so trifling an affection, as not to deserve the name: as when a copious secretion from the intestines or other parts makes up for the deficiency. And cures are sometimes performed in a few excentric cases, without a discharge of saliva, or any other very remarkable evacuation. This can be no argument against the great utility of the method under confinement, nor against the propriety of affecting the mouth. It only shews that the internal, most essential effects of the medicine may, and sometimes do follow without any external mark or symptom, strongly denoting the operation of the medicine as a powerful evacuant. It points out that nature is every way equal to her own work, and can supply in some secret manner this seeming defect. But by no means that we can constantly produce the decisive anti-venereal changes in the animal fluids at pleasure,

pleasure, without their most frequent attendants, a general affection of the mouth and salivary glands; indeed excepting this kind of case, and those in which some other outlet supplies the place of the salivary secretion, the affection of the mouth and internal changes go hand in hand.

A predisposition to a sore mouth cannot always be known *à priori*; nor, so uncertain is the operation of mercury, can the affection be prevented in some constitutions, if it could. There are a great number of cases in which the medicine must be introduced in full doses, and with as much expedition as is consistent with safety, if we mean to stop the progress of an alarming symptom; the internal changes on which the anti-venereal power more immediately depends must be brought about as soon as possible; of course the affection of the mouth, even though it should amount to salivation, is a subordinate consideration, and must be risked. Under these circumstances the idiosyncrasy, more than
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the management of the practitioner, will determine whether the mouth shall be much or little affected; but be that as it may, the inconvenience must be submitted to, because it is, for the most part, unavoidable.

What has been said of the great anti-venereal power of a regular mercurial course under confinement, in which a greater or less degree of salivation generally arises, is not only true in fact, but a very good reason may be given why it is so.

When the medicine cures, and no remarkable evacuation has followed a plentiful introduction of mercury, under confinement, amongst other effects may be observed inflammatory diathesis, prostration of strength, and general emaciation, perhaps with some small degree of feator. Though these symptoms are never raised in such a case without some difficulty and by a long continued use of the stimulant. If they were never perceivable but when salivation was taking place, we might say with Sydenham, that the *Lues Venerea*

Venerea was only to be cured by producing a considerable affection of the mouth and salivary glands. But since experience teaches us, that cures are sometimes performed without this effect of mercury, some other principle must be sought for, to elucidate this very difficult problem. And the truth perhaps is, that inflammatory diathesis, prostration of strength, emaciation, and fætor point to other changes in the system, which may very properly be said to be *internal*: the whole number of which have not yet been discovered, but some however we do know: among which may be reckoned a melting down, attenuation, or singular species of putrefaction of the animal fluids. These, if I mistake not, take place when the medicine does not, as well as when it does salivate; I mean when it cures: and they are what I would call the *decisive antivenereal effects of mercury*.

Let the affection of the mouth be what it may, these internal changes, if they be properly brought on, and continued for a
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sufficient length of time by the stimulus of the medicine, will eradicate the poison, and perfectly cure the most inveterate secondary symptoms of the disease. As I have already hinted, they will sometimes cure without any very considerable or sensible evacuation from the system; but whilst this putrefactive process is going on internally, there is a correspondent very surprising effort imparted to the system, of forcing open, as it were by the impetus of the medicine, one or more outlets or sets of excretory vessels, and stimulating them to a discharge of their fluids. When these circumstances concur, that is, when to inflammatory diathesis, prostration of strength, sudden emaciation and fætor of the breath, as the types of the putrefactive or attenuating internal process, there is joined a considerable increased secretion from the skin, intestines, kidneys or salivary glands, then, the antivenereal power is most rapid and striking; and hereby is pointed out, that, when once the putrefactive process is fairly raised by the medicine, the properties

of the animal fluids are not only altered, but that the venereal virus connected with those fluids, or attached to the living power, actually undergoes a similar change with them: and when fitted for expulsion, by this wonderful operation, is thrown off or evacuated from the system. And the true cause, I believe, why the course I am about to describe more particularly, most frequently cures with the greatest ease and rapidity, in the very worst stages of the disease, is not simply because it salivates, but because in that kind of course in which a considerable affection of the mouth generally comes on, the medicine acts with the greatest force, producing in the most perfect manner *all the requisite internal changes*. And when its operation is thus complete, it is not only a powerful stimulant, and promoter of a singular kind of putrefaction, but also a very considerable evacuant. As a fair salivation, (taking the term in its common acceptation,) will give the fullest view of these singular phenomena, I shall proceed to a description of such parts

parts of this process as appear to me likely to illustrate the doctrine I wish to establish.

A man is ordered for a venereal complaint to confine himself to his room, and is wholly or in part debarred from the use of spirituous and strong fermented liquors, and such generous food as he had been accustomed to in a state of health. The confinement obliges him to breathe an air very different, as a respirable fluid, from that of the external atmosphere, and this circumstance alone strongly disposes him to weakness and putrefaction. In this situation he rubs in a small or full dose of the *Ung. Merc. fort.* according to the urgency of his symptoms, and his supposed predisposition to salivation, every night; night and morning; or every second or third night. The first effects of the medicine are those of a general stimulant, an increased heat, with a pulse more frequent, fuller, and stronger than natural. These are most evident soon after the frictions, especially if the stomach should happen to be, at that time,

loaded with food: those who have rubbed in several doses have very frequently a remarkable beating of the temporal and carotid arteries, which they feel soon after the introduction of the medicine when they are warm in bed. In a short time from the commencement of the course, when the patient awakes in the morning he perceives a clamminess of his tongue; an uncommon metallic taste in his mouth; some degree of thirst, with an uneasiness in his head like that from hard drinking, and with a similar kind of languor and acceleration of the pulse. In proportion to the number of frictions employed, and according to the care taken to get the particles of mercury through the pores of the skin, so is its accumulation in the system considerable, or otherwise. The disturbance once raised by a single friction is gradually kept up by those which follow: and thus an increased action in the several vascular systems of the body prevails constantly, by day as well as by night, with an artificial febrile exacerbation (if I may be allowed that expression)

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which is generally most evident at night, a short time after each friction. After the stimulant has thus operated upon the system in general, for a shorter or a longer space of time (for it is matter of great uncertainty, whether the following symptoms are raised by two or three doses, or by a greater number) a considerable increase of the general inflammation, disposition to costiveness, enlargement and tenderness of the salivary glands, languor, heat and foreness of the gums and parts within the mouth, an unusual flow of saliva, and fætor of the breath arise. These are at first not very distressing; but if they go on so as to form what may be called full salivation, they very soon become considerable. The symptomatic fever is increased still more, the salivary glands and gums are painfully tender; the sides of the tongue, the tonsils, the orifices of the salivary ducts, and the internal surfaces of the cheeks become ulcerated; he is spitting every minute, or perhaps the saliva dribbles out involuntarily and the cheeks and lips are somewhat

preternaturally swollen. The fætor, which was before trifling, is now extremely great, and taints the room to such a degree, that upon opening the chamber door, a judge, without looking at the patient, or enquiring whether he was in a salivation, from this circumstance of fætor would know he was in that situation. The pain and constant irritation to spit keep him awake, and almost deprive him of sleep; he feels himself inexpressibly languid; becomes suddenly thinner, and from the determination of the circulation and living power to the fauces and great dispendium of saliva, the costiveness, which came on at the commencement of the flux, sometimes continues throughout the whole of it; till the salivary discharge and local irritation about the fauces are almost subsided. What is remarkable, the costiveness is sometimes the forerunner of the other symptoms, and points out the approaching storm. Before the affection of the mouth has gained the height just described, a favourable alteration is generally perceivable on
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the face of the disease; but sometimes when the symptom is an old secondary, or even an obstinate primary one, as an ill-conditioned spreading chancre, the fætor, and other symptoms of salivation must be very considerable before the proper healthy change can take place.

Sydenham says, that the symptoms generally go off after the fourth day from the height of the salivation; and that is certainly not unfrequently the case, but it sometimes happens that they go off more gradually, and sometimes much sooner, even in a few hours, when the revolution is rapid and violent. A man shall have a venereal node or venereal farcocale over night, and they shall be gone by the next day; another shall have a small chancre, or venereal sore throat, the former shall be perfectly healed in as short a space of time, and the latter shall almost immediately alter its venereal appearance, and look like a healthy granulating sore. Sometimes, though the practitioner shall be some days, perhaps weeks, before he can raise a proper af-

fection of the mouth, the disease will, during the whole of that time, remain unaltered, until that period arrives at which the salivation and its usual attendants become considerable; then, but not till then, does the decisive revolution commence, which is to end in the perfect cure of the disease. So that the change from sickness to health is more or less sudden, according to the violence of the symptoms produced by the medicine: and the cure seems brought about, more by salivation and its immediate consequences, than by the preceding long continued application of the stimulant. Though there can be no doubt but that a proper degree of stimulus from a sufficient quantity of mercury is to the full as necessary in the cure, as salivation, or any of its attendants, although its action on the disease is not so evident: and it is only by a happy combination of these and other circumstances that success is to be expected. The quantity of saliva discharged is variable; sometimes it continues to flow for a considerable time after

after the process has got to its height, and at another, though the ulcerations shall be general, and all the other symptoms in due degree, yet the discharge of saliva after the first two or three days shall be small in quantity. It may be right to remark on this symptom, that though we have been recommended by some of the best authors to regulate our conduct by the quantity of saliva evacuated, and in some cases it may be a good rule, yet there are other and better criteria by which we may measure the antivenereal power of the remedy on the disease. These may be gathered from the quantity of mercury employed and retained in the system without running off too hastily by any one or more outlets; from its effect on the disease; from the degree and duration of the putrefaction of the fauces and several fluids of the body; from the languor, weakness, emaciation, &c.—that there is a particular species of putrefaction is evident from all the symptoms. The languor and weakness, which are always considerable when the medicine acts

acts powerfully as an antivenereal, in every mercurial course, would lead to a suspicion that a change in the circulating fluids was of the putrid kind: But when to these are added other circumstances, and in particular the factor, which probably arises, as well from the lungs, as from parts within the mouth, the opinion seems to be indisputable. Why does blood drawn from a person in an high salivation, or from one whose system is loaded with mercury, in the act of removing venereal symptoms in an alterative course, when it shews only a tendency towards salivation, always flow from a wound, be it ever so small, with uncommon freedom? Why does it appear broken in its texture, and thinner than natural, if not from a very singular kind of attenuation or putrefaction it is then undergoing? Why is the urine generally of a dark brown colour, sometimes with a sediment like dirt, if not from the same cause? Does not that very remarkable costiveness which frequently continues in some salivations for a week,

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ten days, a fortnight, or longer, considerably heighten this power in the medicine of raising a general state of putridity?

But it is a putridity *fui generis*, unlike every other, that is known to effect the human frame.—It is short lived, and intimately connected with an invigorating principle—For it must be noted, that throughout the whole progress of salivation, even at the period when the ætor and prostration of strength, &c. are at the height, there are latent symptoms of strength generated by the stimulus of the remedy, combined with, but kept under by those of putrefaction; which do not indeed then appear, but which immediately shew themselves on the subsidence of the flux. Hence it is, that though a man after salivation comes out from his confinement much thinner than he was before, yet he looks well, and has an uncommon propensity to reacquire speedily his former health and strength; his spirits are good, and have been rising from the time the symptoms of putrefaction began
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to decline; he is voraciously hungry; the quick depletion of his vessels is followed by as sudden a repletion, and he generally becomes fatter than he was before. There are then two opposite effects arising from a powerful action of mercury; one of which promotes, and the other retards putrefaction. We can trace this power in the early progress of a mercurial course till weakness is produced; we then lose it for a time, but the moment it ceases to weaken, its propensity to invigorate shews itself again. And from this circumstance it is, that if in any mercurial course the genuine antivenereal effects have not been raised, and the further application of the stimulant is discontinued for two or three days, the symptoms of strength so soon appear, and get such entire possession of the habit, as to render a subsequent attempt to raise symptoms of putrefaction difficult. It also, in some measure, explains why the second production of salivation is often not so easy, or to be effected by so small a quantity of the stimulant, as the first:

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I mean when the first salivation has entirely subsided and the medicine been fairly evacuated.

Mercury acts as an universal stimulant upon the irritable parts of the system particularly upon the lymphatics; and this is perhaps one reason why venereal buboes frequently suppurate at the close of a severe mercurial course. This system of vessels has its power of absorption increased, not only before the operation of the medicine has produced salivation, but also, when it is actually present; and after, when the patient has suffered a thorough depletion of his vessels, and is re-acquiring his former strength *. These vessels are certainly

* The sudden emaciation immediately coming on at the commencement of the internal putrefactive process, would incline one to suppose that at that period the absorbents are acting with the greatest power; but the following case seems to shew that this power is most prevalent in the convalescent state of the patient, when, after a considerable depletion of the vessels, the strength is returning under the influence of air, exercise, and a generous diet:—A gentleman, some years ago, having a venereal sarcocele of one testicle, and an hydrocele on the other, with eruptions, &c. was under the necessity of undergoing

certainly the canals by which the venereal poison enters the circulation ; and they may perhaps be the outlets by which it escapes, after it has been changed, as already observed, by undergoing a similar putrefactive process with the blood. Perhaps, even the natural properties of the lymph may be altered.

The languor and prostration of strength point out also an affection of the nervous power, as well as putrefaction of the fluids. In every stage of the *Lues Venerea* this part of the system is in one shape or other acted upon, if not altered by the poison : even in its first symptom, a chancre, the nerves of the part on which the fermentation of the infectious fluid produces ulceration are in a morbid state : a degree of irritability being constantly imparted

dergoing a salivation for a cure ;—the farcocele was perfectly removed, with the other venereal symptoms ; but the hydrocele remained unaltered. Within a month, however, from the time of cure, to his great surprise, he found his hydrocele insensibly diminish ; and at last disappear ; leaving the testicle fuller than natural, but without the smallest perceivable portion of water.

imparted to them, greatly beyond what they ever possess, naturally. And, when the disease is more advanced, there is a general disposition to metastasis; which never leaves the patient entirely till he is perfectly cured: and this is perhaps owing to a morbid modification of the nervous power, generated by disease. So that it is probable, that mercury may have a further operation on this part of the system, over and above that already mentioned, arising from the production of a singular species of putrefaction of the fluids.

Let the course be what it may, whether the affection of the mouth be considerable or otherwise; the number of frictions, whether more or less, should if possible form one well-connected and uninterrupted whole. Each preceding friction should leave an impression which should be kept up and increased by those which follow. And in that manner a fair accumulation of the particles of mercury must be effected; which, towards the close of the course, should act as one large and entire dose on every, the most
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remote part of the system. Without a careful attention to this rule, in some habits, neither the proper action of the vessels, nor putrefaction of the fluids can be brought on.

From what has been said, the reader will immediately see why a quick application of mercury, under confinement, diminishes its tendency to act as a strengthening stimulant: at least for a time. And why a slow introduction of the same medicine as in an alterative way, with a free allowance of good air, exercise, and a substantial diet, promotes it. The predisposing causes of putrefaction, which are constantly present in the one method, but wanting in the other, will for ever distinguish them as means of cure: and point out the propriety of applying, either the one or the other according to the prevailing idiosyncrasy of the patient. And also why the predisposing circumstances of the one method may, occasionally, be applied to the other. Thus, under confinement, it may be sometimes necessary to let in good respirable

spirable air, to prevent too great a degree of putridity. So in the alterative method, it may be often proper, to confine the patient to the house, especially towards the close of the course, in order to bring it on.

It has been already observed, that if the medicine salivates fully, and with violence, it will sometimes cure, though the quantity received into the circulation be remarkably small. But many such kind of cases are liable to great suspicion. For, among the constitutions most readily affected by small doses, there is one which cannot always be known *à priori*; in which the stimulant is apt to run off too hastily by the mouth, without making the proper impression on the other parts of the system. This kind of habit I call scorbutic, by which term; I mean a general tendency to putrefaction. In such constitutions, without the utmost care even repeated courses under confinement will sometimes fail: the medicine suddenly laying hold of the mouth, the symptoms being violent, and the flux

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great, the patient is thereby for some days precluded from the further use of the remedy ; the salivation continuing till he is greatly weakened, at length stops, *re infecta* ; the quantity of mercury received, having been not only too small, but evacuated too soon.

In a case of this kind, a cure was attempted four different times under confinement and every course failed. Some of the symptoms of the disease being only mitigated, and some changed into others ; the disposition to metastasis remaining. In this instance a perfect cure was at last obtained by counteracting the too great tendency to salivation and putrefaction ; by avoiding confinement for a considerable time, and by recommending daily a guarded exposure to country air, with a plain strengthening diet, divested as much as possible of stimulating substances ; and under cover of these, causing a larger accumulation of the remedy in the system than in any of the preceding courses. By this management a fifth salivation, more violent and of longer duration than any
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of the former came on, as the others had done, without the surgeon having it in his power to prevent it: but this was followed by a permanent cure; and is one proof, amongst many others, that might be given, of the inefficacy of an alterative course of mercury, and great power of salivation in particular stages of the disease. * From this case, the great neces-

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sity

* A gentleman came from abroad emaciated to the last degree, and covered from head to foot with eruptions, not of the true copper colour, but florid, and containing a kind of watery fluid, like the ichor of the itch; he had no pains, but before the eruption appeared, had suffered much from what he called the rheumatism. As it was possible his complaints might not be of the venereal kind, a weak mercurial cerate was applied to his sores. In two or three days it salivated him; the pustules which before contained a fluid and were prominent, by the action of the salivation, subsided, and the marks left had the true copper hue: a node on each elbow near the olecranon soon appeared after the subsidence of the flux, with a fresh though less considerable eruption. When he had been to appearance sufficiently strengthened by bark, &c. an internal mercurial in a very small dose was given him daily, yet this also suddenly raised an affection of the mouth; which seemed to remove the eruption completely, together with the nodes: but within a month a few partial pustules were perceived on both legs; after these had continued
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sity of attending to the general health of those who are obliged to undergo severe mercurial courses is sufficiently evident. The fault of the constitution should be, if possible, corrected before the exhibition of mercury, and most carefully counteracted during the progress of the course by proper remedies. The case I have given points out a most material curative indication, namely, an action on the solids and fluids resulting from the retention of

some time, and his health was seemingly established, an internal mercurial (the *solut. of sublimate in decoct. sars.*) was given him : he had not taken three grains of the sublimate in this way, and in the smallest doses, before he was salivated for the third time. The eruption went, but in two or three months the disease sprouted out in a new form, and shewed itself by a thickening of the muscles, followed by deep sloughy ulcerations on the outside of the calf of one leg. Frictions were now had recourse to, ʒss. *Ung. M. fort.* was rubbed below the ulceration every other night. In a short time, that is, within three weeks, this also produced salivation, which to all appearance had cured the disease; but the ulceration returned, was larger and more painful than ever, and spread at a great rate; by the use of the carrot poultice, by rest, opium, and Plummer's alterative pill, the sore was got into so small a compass that he could walk out. In this state he was sent into the country,

of a due, but indeterminate quantity of mercury, which action should be not only sufficiently strong, but equable over every part of the system, and exerted for a sufficient length of time : I say indeterminate, because the quantity must vary in different persons, and can only be regulated by the habit of the patient, by the effects raised in the system, and by its operation on the symptoms of the disease. Therefore, whenever a salivation comes on, especially if it has arisen prematurely, the practitioner should exercise his

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try, and directed to take moderate exercise, under the diet described, in the open air : When his health was thoroughly recruited, he had recourse again to the *Solut. subl.* and *decoct. sars.* rubbing in \mathfrak{z} ss. *Ung. Mer. fort. alternis noctibus.* The quantity of the solution was gradually increased from one 16th of a grain to one 8th of a grain in twenty-four hours : notwithstanding the care he took to introduce the medicine in such manner as to prevent a premature affection of the mouth, and was daily exposed to good respirable air, yet it salivated him again after he had taken it about a month, and with more violence than it had ever done before. The salivation came on suddenly, and he spit three pints a day till the twenty-second day ; after which it gradually went off, and he had the satisfaction to find his sufferings at an end, and that he had, at last, obtained a cure.

judgment and determine from a due consideration of all the circumstances before him, whether the affection of the mouth is partial, or complete in all its parts; that is, whether, to the local effect of salivation there is also joined a sufficient degree of action in the medicine, as a mercurial stimulant. If the course is defective in this particular, and the salivation is too violent to admit of the further use of mercury with safety, he must have recourse to it immediately on the very first subsidence of the flux: but if the affection of the mouth, though considerable, is not so violent as to forbid its application, and he perceives that the disease is not likely to be cured, especially if neither the fætor, languor, nor putrefaction bear a due proportion to the effect on the salivary glands, he may wish to avail himself of this critical period. If that should be his intention, and he is desirous of introducing a greater quantity of mercury, he must proceed with caution: for, as on the one hand, this is the point of time at which he may, if he
 pleases,

pleases, almost instantly produce the most powerful antivenereal effects of which this medicine is capable ; so on the other, by urging it too far, and thereby stimulating or weakening too much, he may do an irreparable injury. And a very small dose at such time will operate with wonderful increase of power, both as a spur to the symptoms peculiar to salivation, and as an antivenereal. But when that time is over, the effects of the medicine as a strengthening stimulant begin to appear ; and then, nature will generally bear and indeed requires its introduction in larger quantity. The sooner we have recourse to the stimulant after the subsidence of the salivation, the more powerfully will it act. And in this place I must mention a circumstance of no small consequence. When the several doses have once raised salivation, &c. we certainly lose the most favourable opportunity of serving the patient if we suffer the affection of the mouth and its concomitants to flag too soon, by discontinuing the medicine, or by letting in good respira-

ble air; for the invigorating power of the remedy will immediately take the lead and keep possession of the habit. The stimulant should therefore be repeated, if possible, again and again without intermission, till the effects on the system correspond with the quantity of mercury received, and till both have manifested a proper action on the disease by the total and perfect removal of all its symptoms; or, in other words, the accumulated force of the several connected doses should continue constantly increasing till the disease is perfectly gone. And experience will warrant the assertion, when I say, that in an obstinate symptom it is much safer to persist in the use of the remedy some time longer. When this is properly attended to, the cure will be easy and effected within a short space of time; when it is not, slow and difficult. For it is by no means the same thing, whether the medicine is introduced by a full and uninterrupted accumulation till it has had the proper operation on the system and on the disease; or whether,

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from a too great dread of the present affection of the mouth, we desist too soon from the stimulant, and endeavour to increase the accumulation after that affection has subsided. Whoever has inadvertently let slip the critical time of expediting the cure when the salivation was considerable, must be sensible of the difficulty of re-producing the proper putrefactive changes, which in some cases can never be done, till a second more considerable affection of the mouth than the first, has been brought on. The apparent removal of one or more venereal symptoms is not always to be trusted to. For there is most frequently another and more extensive intention to be answered; namely, the total destruction of a poison most intimately blended and as it were assimilated with the constitution. And experience fully evinces, that this necessary object cannot be obtained, but by the perfect and unmutilated production of those essential internal, and external changes, which are inseparable, from a powerful operation of the medicine on the system;

system ; which should be properly raised and kept up, as occasion requires, by a due quantity of the stimulant. Venereal eruptions, nodes, venereal farcoceles have been perfectly removed without curing the disease. Even in the common primary symptom, a chancre, it is frequently not only necessary to heal it, perfectly, by the general action of the medicine alone ; but to continue the stimulant some time longer. We should not only remove a venereal eruption, but if the medicine fails to produce a fair and full effect on the system, the disease will be very readily translated from the skin, to the membranous surfaces, particularly to the periosteum ; and pains in the limbs, or perhaps nodes, will follow. Though I mean to treat this part of my subject more in detail hereafter, yet there is a circumstance with regard to the treatment of a venereal eruption which has not been, I believe, attended to. When there is a considerable number of eruptions spread over the whole body, it is no uncommon thing for the first doses of the
 medicine

medicine to remove the greater part of them, two or three only remaining. These will sometimes continue, during the whole progress of the cure, and if the medicine is not persisted in till after it has produced in the centre of each pock a palish dent or pit, the patient will not be secure. Nay, in one case, (indeed it was in an alterative course,) the disposition to venereal metastasis remained, though this rule was most carefully followed.

It sometimes happens, that though the intention is to salivate under the predisposing circumstance of confinement, yet we are foiled in our attempts to raise this effect from the medicine. If a mercurial griping, and tendency to a purging should come on they may compensate, in a great measure, for the deficiency: in this case a warm opiate, properly given, and repeated *pro re nata*, will not only procure immediate ease, but, by quieting the irritation in the bowels, and at the same time promoting costiveness,

ness, will bid fair to bring on an affection of the mouth.

But when the medicine has been used for many days, in the largest doses, and under the most rigid confinement, and yet has not the effects just mentioned, it may be asked, How are we to proceed, or to know, that it is acting properly on the disease? We may know, it is producing the proper effect, by comparing the quantity employed with the *external* and *internal changes*, which have taken place; by attending to the state of the intestines, skin, kidneys, and circulation in general. If neither salivation nor purging have arisen, there is most frequently a considerable degree of costiveness; there is often an increased secretion from the skin or from the kidneys, and constantly a considerable degree of inflammatory diathesis. The urine, from a pale straw colour, becomes of a dark brown; and before the decisive change is produced on the disease, the emaciation, languor, and weakness are not
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only evident, but to those who are unacquainted with the operation of mercury very alarming. These circumstances mark the operation of the medicine sufficiently; and point out that it is, according to the idea of Sydenham, a specific mediately only, that is by the alterations it occasions in the system. But it most frequently happens that, with the above effects, some degree of fætor, with a metallic taste in the mouth, and some slight tendency towards salivation, are perceivable. The quantity of mercury required to effect a cure, when this inaptitude to salivation prevails, is much greater than in any other kind of constitution whatever.—I must caution the young practitioner not to mistake the want of salivation from a slovenly use of mercury, for this natural inaptitude to it, which is peculiar to some constitutions, and which varies, in the same person, at different periods, and under different circumstances.

Between the habit just described, and that in which salivation is apt to take place,

place prematurely, there are many intermediate gradations. The *middle* state, between the two extremes, is the most favourable for the action of mercury under confinement; for in this case to the fair symptoms of putrefaction may be joined a proper accumulation, and retention of a large portion of the medicine: and as there is here no great affinity between the salivary glands and the remedy, there is no great danger of a sudden or too violent flux; so that the affection of the mouth may, with the utmost ease, be kept within moderate bounds; whilst the mercurial particles are fully and equally diffused over the whole system. In this case, that general revolution, which has been already described, and which is sometimes too suddenly raised by a small quantity of mercury, must be brought about gradually: and there should be gained by time, that is, by the continued and progressive action of the stimulant, what is wanting in force. Instead of attempting to remove the symptoms of the disease

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ease in a few days, which is sometimes done when the mouth is speedily affected, we should be contented with a similar operation from the medicine procured, in a longer space of time, by the united action of many doses ; and though it may be a fortnight, three weeks, or perhaps longer before the proper affection of the mouth, and its concomitants, appear ; yet when the decisive change begins to take place, the cure proceeds with great celerity, and is permanently effected in a few days.

In the treatment of a venereal patient the first thing to be enquired into, after ascertaining the nature of the symptoms, is his idiosyncrasy. But how are we to obtain this necessary kind of information ? Is Sydenham's rule, that all those who are with difficulty purged by a common cathartic, are also hard to salivate, to be depended upon ? I fear there will ever be much uncertainty in forming a right judgment on this matter. For I have frequently known the same constitution at one period without any propen-

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sity to salivation, resisting the most powerful doses of the medicine, under the closest confinement; at another, salivated by the smallest doses, when no confinement had been enjoined. But whenever there are spongy, diseased gums, with bad teeth, especially if due care is not taken to keep them clean, during a mercurial course, I believe there will be this kind of propensity: and, as has been already observed, whenever a scorbutic tendency in the habit prevails, there also, this inconvenience is too often apt to interrupt the progress of a cure. But an healthy state of the teeth, and gums by no means constantly implies an exemption from this propensity; for many persons are easily salivated, who have them in the most perfect order. The internal and external use of stimulants, when the system has been previously loaded with mercury, has frequently, even a considerable time after the discontinuance of the medicine, caused an unexpected salivation; thus drinking, hunting, and dancing have sometimes been followed

followed by this effect. And at any time during a mercurial course, whatever increases the general stimulating power of mercury, or irritates, and heats the parts about the throat, especially in the habits just described, will frequently be followed by like consequences.

With regard to the use of purgatives, and the warm bath, for averting an impending flux of the mouth; they are principally applicable to but one description of men, namely, those who are very easily salivated. When the other extreme predominates, they will frequently diminish the antivenereal power of the remedy, by retarding that, which should be promoted; I mean the putrefactive process of the medicine; which, in this constitution, is never effected without some difficulty. But, in regard to the operation of purgatives, there is an exception to this rule: for it sometimes happens that they, after a long and ineffectual endeavour at raising salivation, by clearing the intestinal canal, render the absorption of internal mercurials

more certain, and, at the same time, by quickening the pulse, give a spur to the medicine, whilst it is acting on every part of the body. But to return to the first of these two cases: it has been already observed that costiveness generally precedes and accompanies salivation, and its consequences:—one cause of which is the partial determination of the circulation and nervous power to the parts within the mouth. It is well known, that when the medicine takes to the mucous glands of the intestines, it often causes dysenteric symptoms, without any considerable affection of the mouth; and when the bowels are only moderately open, in a mercurial course, the mouth is frequently secured from a too violent inflammation. These are facts depending on constitution and the spontaneous action of the medicine; and are met with, when a cure has been attempted by frictions simply, without the aid of any internal mercurial. These circumstances point out, that, as in the constitution which has an antipathy to salivation,

tion, bringing on an artificial costiveness, by giving a narcotic every night, will, next to absolute confinement and a quick and large repetition of the several doses, promote the antivenereal effects of the remedy : so in its opposite, when it becomes necessary to prevent salivation, purgatives will certainly be useful in lessening the partial plethora of the vessels about the mouth, by drawing off the circulation and nervous power to the intestines ; and the warm bath will concur in producing a similar effect, by making a revulsion to the skin. But these means should be employed early, for they both quicken the general circulation, and, if the mercury has already got full possession of the mouth, they will sometimes increase the affection. But when properly timed, they are very serviceable in enabling the practitioner to introduce more of the medicine than could be done without their assistance. To these, may occasionally be added a gradual and guarded exposure to good respirable air ; under which circumstances, the course

should be continued by very moderate doses, till the constitution gets habituated to the stimulus of the medicine, and when a large accumulation has been made, it may be afterwards pushed with greater boldness.

It sometimes happens that an attempt to raise sufficient salivation not only fails for a considerable time, but the disease continues with unabated obstinacy, though a fair introduction of a large quantity of the medicine has been effected, and it does not, in the smallest degree remit, notwithstanding the emaciation and weakness of the patient. It is difficult to say, what would be the best method of treating such a case; whether from the natural repugnance there seems to be to salivation, it would not be safer, by varying the preparation of mercury, when that originally used seems to have lost its power, to keep up a proper stimulus; and endeavour to obtain in six weeks or more, what in an ordinary course under confinement, may be gained in three or four weeks; I say it is difficult

cult to settle, whether such a method of proceeding may not be preferable to employing force to raise salivation when nature strongly opposes the endeavour; the strength or weakness of the patient and other circumstances, should, I apprehend, determine the practitioner in his choice. In one case, during the space of a month, more than six ounces of *Ung. Merc. fort.* had been fairly rubbed in, besides the internal use of a very active internal preparation for a venereal sore throat. The patient was greatly emaciated, somewhat weakened, and his mouth slightly sore, with some degree of salivation; yet the ulceration was not altered: in this situation he used a cinabar fumigation; from the first application of the vapour, no remarkable change took place, but the second, increased very considerably the affection of the mouth, brought on great and distressing prostration of strength, sickness, purging, and a dysenteric kind of uneasiness in his bowels. The diseased appearance immediately gave way, and after quieting

the general commotion by a warm opiate, the effects of the remedy, as well as the symptom of the disease, subsided, and very soon went off. In this case, as in many others that might be adduced, probably the internal putrefactive changes so necessary towards a cure were so absolutely dependent on salivation, that they could not be separated.

It is not within the compass of the present publication to enter into the action of mercury when it ceases to be a medicine and becomes a poison. But it may be necessary to mention some of the ill consequences which may arise from a too plentiful introduction of it, or from too violent salivation: and to shew, that though it may be freely and with safety used for the cure of the *Lues Venerea*, and other diseases, yet there is a limit in the progress of its effect, beyond which, it should never be urged. When the medicine, or its effects have been carried too far, that weakness which ever attends a mercurial course in a greater or less degree, is not, what it ought to be,

be, transient, but permanent ; and that principle of invigoration, which always follows a well-conducted cure under confinement, is lost. This accident most frequently happens in a very irritable or inflammable habit ; when a too violent or long continued salivation has preceded ; when the putrefaction has been great : or when the attempts to raise a spitting have been strenuously persisted in, though nature strongly resisted the effort. When a man complains of great and distressing prostration of strength, has slight nausea, a pulse much quicker and harder than natural, universal agitation of mind and body, with want of sleep, especially if there is also some degree of giddiness with an obtuse pain in the head, the practitioner has done enough, and let the symptoms of salivation be ever so trifling, he cannot with safety, under these circumstances, stimulate farther ; he must either desist entirely from the use of the medicine, or if he still imagines that the disease is not perfectly cured, must wait a little for the subsidence of the symp-

toms, before he proceeds with the remedy.

When the medicine has been so urged as to produce a permanent degree of weakness; to a very considerable degree of general irritability is often joined a partial one; thus if sloughs have formed behind the posterior *dentes molares*, they will sometimes put on a kind of phagedenic appearance, and spread towards the uvula. If there has been a venereal ulceration on either of the tonsils, which towards the latter part of the mercurial course has had a kindly granulating appearance, when the medicine is pushed beyond the necessary point, it will frequently be changed to a colour somewhat cineritious, which will be most evident at the circumference of the sore; the uvula and posterior part of the palate will have a similar hue; and sometimes ulcerations truly gangrenous, will succeed to that soreness of the mouth, the degree of which it is indeed hard to define with accuracy, but which nature seems to have marked out for the precise state,

state, beyond which she must not be stimulated. If a bubo remains unhealed, it will sometimes become phagedenic, when the medicine has been employed too freely, or used at a time when the constitution was too weak to bear its natural operation. The sore becomes exquisitely painful, and highly irritable; it spreads from corner to corner at a prodigious rate, undermines the skin, eats into the surrounding parts irregularly, so as to produce an ill-looking ulceration, with ragged, callous, fiery edges. This is sometimes the mere effect of mercury, but sometimes to this cause may be added another, namely, a latent venereal taint, roused up, as it were, but not eradicated by the stimulating power of the medicine.

When, notwithstanding the fair use of mercury under confinement, and after it has raised a considerable affection of the mouth with the usual internal changes, &c. it happens, that the cure is not permanent. It is most probable that the failure has arisen from the quantity of
mercury

mercury employed having been too small, its action too weak, and not kept up for a sufficient length of time; or from some other circumstance, which, though essential, has not been properly attended to in the course of the treatment. To give one instance out of many that might be given of such a failure. A person at the time he received chancrous infection had a pox in his habit, which had been for years suppressed, but not perfectly cured. From the last and more recent infection he had an ulcer on the inside of the prepuce, which from irritation and neglect soon occasioned a phymosis; in this situation he applied for relief; being unable to give himself rest, he used mercury in the alterative way for about a fortnight: finding no considerable amendment, he submitted to confinement; and having rubbed in for about ten or twelve days, a considerable affection of the mouth took place, which for some time forbade the further introduction of the medicine. During this interval, it was observed, that a pustule on one of his cheeks,

cheeks, which he had had for some time before his confinement, but which from having nothing striking in its aspect had not been regarded, suddenly went; the hardened crust came off, and left a true venereal pit behind. The salivation, though it seemed to have cured this symptom, had not cured his chancre; the phymosis was not perfectly gone, and the ulceration though in a healing state, was not well. At the time when the subsidence of the flux, and other circumstances, plainly demanded the further introduction of the medicine, he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, and did not return for a fortnight, and though he continued the use of mercury during the whole of that time, yet when he came to town he was much worse than he had ever been; the pustule on his cheek had returned, was increased considerably in size, and was now a deep ulceration, and the phymosis and chancre were in as bad a state. Under these circumstances he was confined a second time, mercury was
again

again introduced in a variety of forms, without interruption, for five weeks complete, and his mouth kept tender for at least half that time; the fore on the face yielded, but with much more difficulty than before; the phymosis and ulceration on the prepuce continued. The medicine was at last urged so frequently and so forcibly, that it would have been unsafe to have pushed it farther; in consequence of this, the ulcer on the prepuce, though not perfectly well, was nearer being healed than it had ever been, and the phymosis so far gone, that the glans could with some difficulty be denuded. As soon as his general state would admit of it, he was directed to employ a cinnabar fumigation to the glans and prepuce, which expedited the healing: and by the absorption of the vapour from the fumigation, which he used every other day, with the assistance of the *solut. sub. cum decoct. sars.* continued for a month more, he got perfectly well.

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Some part of the difficulty attending this case ought certainly to be attributed to the unfortunate discontinuance of his first course, under confinement; but from the quantity of mercury he had then used, and from its effects on the system, I am of opinion, that if this had not been a mixed case, I mean, a new infection engrafted on an old one, the course, imperfect as it was, would have cured him; or at least have rendered the second treatment effectual, without the necessity of a subsequent alterative course. Five years before the receipt of the infection for which he was under my care, he had been under another surgeon, and with the utmost difficulty cured of a venereal sore throat. From the foregoing history it is plain, that though salivation, from some unforeseen accident or other, may sometimes fail of curing, yet that it will so far break down or enervate the disease as to render a perfect cure easily attainable by the aid of an alterative course; and that there are symptoms which will yield to the action of both, that will not give way to either singly.

A mar-

A married lady, who had been infected for many years, was salivated fairly for the disease; when she had desisted from the use of mercury, and was supposed to be cured, she felt considerable pain on one shin; from the very plentiful salivation she had been in, the surgeon who had had the care of her, concluded that she was cured of the disease, and that the present symptom would be taken off by laying a caustic on the part and fairly dividing the periosteum; the operation was done; but she did not find much relief from it. In a short time what seemed to be a partial affection became a general one; she had nocturnal pains universally, and a large node suddenly made its appearance on the *os frontis*. I put her immediately not only into a course of the solution, but ordered her, after a week's use of this medicine, to rub in below the node on the leg 3 fs. *Ung. Merc. fort. alternis diebus*, and to take from a pint to a quart of the *decoct. sarsap.* a day.

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The mercurials were so managed as not to affect her mouth till the close of the course, and she was confined to her chamber after the first week. When she had followed this method for a month her pains diminished, and the node on her forehead disappeared; a trifling uneasiness on the affected tibia only remaining. By a perseverance in this plan for three weeks more, her pains left her entirely, and so far as respected the disease she was cured certainly. Towards the latter part of the course I pushed the mercurials rather freely till her mouth became moderately sore; when that had subsided she was suffered to go out; in about a fortnight from which time a small exfoliation was thrown off from the tibia and the sore immediately healed.

To what are we to attribute the cure in this case? Probably to the salivation, which in the first instance broke down the disease; to the raising a more gradual, more perfect, and larger accumulation, in the system in the second course, than had
 been

been before effected; and lastly, to the sarsaparilla.

Whether this medicine has actually any specific power in the venereal disease, or whether it has only a property of acting in such a manner on the system as to assist the natural operation of mercury, I will not say; but certain it is, that so early as the middle of the sixteenth century* this root was employed in the *Lues Venerea*, and for this particular symptom, a node. Perhaps both this medicine and guaiacum may have some degree of specific power in the more advanced stages of the disease, when the periosteum or bones are affected. The author just quoted, has, after describing two kinds of gummata, one of which we now call a node, remarked, that they arose *post inunctionem hydrargyri, qui non sanarit ægros*; and I apprehend they are owing to the

* *Salsa est regina in hoc, quia discutit topkos quodam quasi miraculo, lignum guaiaci etiam digerit, sed non ita, nec tam facile*, Pag. 816. *Aphrodisiac. Gabriel. Fallop. de Morbo Gallico. Cap. 115.*

repul-

repulsion of the pustules from the surface of the skin to that, of the periosteum by the too partial operation of the medicine on the disease; and not to its deleterious effects on the constitution.

Having given the most usual forms, in which a mercurial course, under confinement, generally appears in daily practice, when employed for the cure of the most obstinate symptoms of the *Lues Venerea*, I have only to add a few observations on its intrinsic merit, as a method of treatment. I must apprise the reader, however, that I have all along placed it only in a general view, as a means of relief for the very worst stages of the disease, nor do I now mean to apply it to any one particular symptom—that will be done hereafter. But thus much it may be proper to say in this place; that in the method under confinement any quantity of mercury may be introduced, into the general circulation, excepting those persons only who salivate very readily, and even in that idiosyncrasy

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a small quantity may be so managed, as effectually to do the business of a much larger, and with the most perfect quietude of mind and body. We can with the utmost ease and certainty, and without the smallest check from irregularities, the action of cold, or other circumstances, proportion the quantity to the effects on the system, and both, to the disease. We can cure by this method in the shortest space of time possible; and by a proper attention to the habit of the patient, the practitioner may generally, and at pleasure, make its effects slight or violent; he can therefore adapt it to every symptom. Thus a recent chancre he may often cure in a fortnight or three weeks, without affecting the mouth much; and the very worst secondary symptoms, within three weeks, a month, or five weeks. As to the consequences of a too rapid or violent salivation, with the precautions I have mentioned, they may in general be prevented. In summer as well as winter, the patient's chamber should not be too small,

small, and when there is an aptitude to salivation it will be of service, especially during the former of these seasons, if at the commencement of the course he ranges from one room to another, or even lets in fresh air, occasionally. But in the opposite constitution, the same liberty is not allowable, for it will impede the natural operation of the medicine; nor can it in any case be safely adopted with the same freedom, in winter. A mercurial course, under confinement, *when the rules I have laid down are carefully followed*, will, I believe, prove generally speaking not only the most certain method of treating the disease, but when applied to the most delicate constitutions it possesses fewer inconveniences, than any other; for it has not the danger which the prosecution of an alterative course ever will have in so variable a climate as that of Great-Britain; it is not subject to the same interruptions; nor has it the inconveniences of ordinary, or rapid salivation. In short, the effects raised, are simply those

of the medicine, assisted indeed, but not counteracted by any one circumstance under which the course is undertaken: and what weighs more than any thing I have yet said, the weakness it occasions resembles that which follows a short-lived, acute febrile disease, and immediately goes off upon the patient taking to his former habits.

THE ALTERATIVE METHOD

IF an alterative course were to be conducted according to the ideas of some practitioners, it ought to be so managed as to avoid symptoms of salivation entirely; I mean by the term every affection of the mouth whatever; and the precise point to which it should be carried, be to the production of inflammatory diathesis only; that is, to a preternatural fullness, frequency, and strength of the pulse. But if such method of employing mercury be applied to a genuine venereal symptom, and cures; it will be but in very few instances. For, to say nothing of the natural tendency in the medicine to lay hold of the mouth, which no man can always pre-

vent; it may with truth be said, that amidst the variety of cases which do daily fall to the lot of every practitioner, to one cure effected in the above way, there are at least ten, in which a very palpable and considerable affection of the mouth must be raised; not only purposely, as an indispensable requisite towards a cure, but unavoidably. It being impossible, in some habits, to introduce mercury enough to cure without it. And therefore the doctrine, however specious, can be very seldom applied with advantage to practice: And when too implicitly relied on, may do much mischief, by leading the incautious and inexperienced astray after an *Ignis fatuus*, when they should be following a substance, and depending upon the more solid effects of the medicine.

The leading principles, already laid down, when speaking of the preceding method, are, *mutatis mutandis*, applicable to the alterative. The great discriminating circumstances are exercise and exposure to the open air; under a regimen
somewhat

somewhat less stimulating and nutritious than in the ordinary habits of living. To which may be added, in the idiosyncrasy which is soon affected by mercury, the introduction of the medicine in much smaller doses.—In the opposite temperament, if we mean to raise the proper antivenereal effect, the doses must frequently be as large as when the medicine is used under confinement.

I will suppose it entered upon by frictions, as in the preceding method. We are very properly directed to begin with small doses; which are to be increased in strength, and applied at longer or shorter intervals, as circumstances may direct.—If a tendency towards salivation should at any time appear, we are to put an immediate stop to the further use of the medicine, and to wait till such tendency is removed, After which we are to have recourse to the stimulant again, and with this restriction, to continue its introduction till the disease is cured. We are not to load the system hastily with so large a quan-

tity of mercury as in the foregoing course, but to endeavour, by the use of smaller doses, proportioned however to the prevailing idiosyncrasy, to produce a more slow and gradual accumulation ; and the number of frictions, be they more or less, should form as it were a continued and well connected chain ; so that, towards the close of the course, the system may be acted upon fairly, by the conjunct force of the several doses. Such, in few words, are the general outlines of this method.

The degree of inflammatory diathesis is less to be depended upon for ascertaining the due absorption of the stimulant and its proper action on the disease, than in the preceding method : because an irritable or inflammable habit, when stimulated by mercury, introduced under the influence of air, exercise, and a nutritious diet, is much more easily heated, than when these last circumstances do not prevail ; and it is extremely clear, that a much less quantity will alter the state of the circulation,

culation, by its mere stimulus, than will produce a proper antivenereal change on the fluids. Therefore, no reliance should be placed on this symptom, when it is pure and unmixed; and not that alteration in the system which precedes and attends an affection of the mouth. But it may be considered as an accident requiring the occasional interposition of evacuations, and an antiphlogistic regimen. And we must endeavour to ascertain the progress we make by other circumstances. If the medicine causes a tenderness, or uncommon taste in the mouth, with disposition to salivation, though the affection be slight, we may be certain that it is as much the mark of an internal putrefactive process going on, in this method, as in that under confinement: of a process, however, which is kept under by the influence and strengthening power of the three circumstances just mentioned. But, notwithstanding, the extensive operation of these causes in this kind of course, such is the power of the medicine,

dicine, that the usual effects of mercury, under confinement, are sufficiently evident to satisfy an enquirer that the internal changes do actually take place; though, perhaps, not so completely. The costiveness, before the mouth becomes much affected, and the fœtor when it is, the emaciation, extreme languor, sometimes with cold colliquative sweats, or dysenteric kind of purging, &c. are generally, when the course cures a bad symptom, so strongly marked, as to put the matter out of all doubt. There is even a similar attenuation or want of natural cohesion in the blood. The great difference, in the two methods, arises from the causes above assigned, and whoever considers attentively their influence, will be sensible, that such causes must act as checks to the putrefactive effects of the medicine; and that to these, the seemingly smothered state of its operation is more owing, than to the manner, in which it is introduced. The predominant circumstance in the former method was weakness; produced by the
rapid

rapid introduction of full doses, under strict confinement and total inactivity. That of the present, is strength, generated by a more cautious management of the medicine, when the constitution is at the same time under the action of air, exercise, and a generous diet. The one shews how the invigorating power of the medicine may be diminished; the other, how it may be increased.

An alterative course will always cure in the idiosyncrasy easily salivated, with more certainty, than in the opposite state of the body; and this leads me to speak of the doses by which this method should be conducted. In the former of these cases they should be small, and so managed that they may gain as it were insensibly on the constitution, without raising a considerable affection of the mouth; and if this is done properly the system will soon become accustomed to the stimulant; the power of habit prevailing by degrees over the natural tendency to salivation. If, however, the mouth should become suddenly and prematurely

maturely affected, it will be proper to desist immediately from the use of the medicine; and, when this symptom is suffered to subside, it may be generally repeated with more boldness than before. Whenever the opposite Idiosyncrasy can be known, the doses should be larger, and repeated with greater freedom; and without this precaution it will be extremely difficult to produce the requisite degree of putrefaction and weakness.

The greater number of doses required to obtain the same antivenereal effect in this, as in the other method, weakens the general operation of the medicine. Therefore whenever the power of habit shews itself, the dose must be not only increased, but it will be most frequently necessary to introduce it in a new form: if frictions were first employed, an active internal preparation may be added to them; if this should prove insufficient, another should be called in, as an aid to the means before used; and in this way the proper

per action may be kept up. If the stimulant be urged too far, perhaps symptoms of salivation may arise; and if they appear at the latter part of the course, when the disease is nearly cured, they will be of considerable service: because they will point out the proper internal changes, after a due retention of a large portion of the medicine. But, if they come on too early, the case will be very different; the connection between the several doses being prematurely broken, the attempt to produce the requisite, but indefinable accumulation for a time fails. And in both cases, it frequently happens, if the symptom is an obstinate one, that, notwithstanding the use of the medicine for some weeks, and the present affection of the mouth, it will remain unaltered or perhaps is but just beginning to put on a favourable appearance; plainly indicating, that the internal process is only in its first stage, and that a further, more considerable action of the remedy, and greater degree of putrefaction, are necessary.

necessary. How are these to be effected, when the situation of the patient precludes the observance of confinement? They are in such a case to be brought on, only by the longer continuance of the stimulant. If the present affection of the mouth is so considerable, that more of the medicine cannot be immediately introduced, there must be an intermission for one, two, three, four, or more days, and, if the practitioner is not extremely attentive, the putrefactive process, which was going on when salivation was impending, will suddenly be stopped, and the invigorating effect of the remedy will soon shew itself, by a fresh flow of spirits, and by the amended health of the patient. So that after this, the course must be recommenced, under difficulties very much increased.

But if this should occur in the habit easily salivated, I believe, it will be of no great disservice: for when the symptoms are fairly suffered to go off, the proper accumulation may be afterwards
made

made without danger of another premature interruption : a second affection of the mouth being most frequently more difficult to raise than the first. But, if it occurs in the other kind of habit, from cold throwing up a quantity of blood to the head ; from violent exercise ; the unexpected absorption of a large dose of mercury, &c. it will render a future attempt to cure extremely difficult. In this case, the affection of the mouth, and general state of the patient, must be accurately watched, and upon the very first appearance of relaxation in the symptoms of putrefaction, the medicine must be again recurred to : for it is inconceivable to those who have not attended to the fact, how very soon, symptoms of strength will appear, and counteract our future endeavours upon the smallest interruption or diminution of the usual doses : I mean in this particular habit. Both these situations are rather embarrassing ; for in both there must be a temporary suspension of the effects of the medicine,

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by which its operation on the disease must be weakened. However the shorter the interval the better; and, when the mouth is not much affected, it is frequently of singular advantage to continue the use of the remedy in a very small dose; thus from half a grain to two grains of *Merc. Calc.* may often, notwithstanding the seeming tendency to salivation, be had recourse to, and repeated occasionally, and so powerfully will the circumstances in which the patient is placed keep under this tendency, that the soreness of the mouth will frequently diminish, though the medicine be continued in this manner for some days, and at length get into such a state, as plainly to point out the necessity of larger doses. If I can prevail with my patient, I generally begin with frictions, and seldom use a larger quantity, for the first fortnight or three weeks, than *ʒij. Ung. Merc. fort. omni nocte*. If the medicine occasions a purging, the bowels must be quieted by an opiate; that done, if no considerable affec-
tion

tion of the mouth follows, it may be repeated and continued. If costiveness supervenes we may be certain that it has not only fairly entered the circulation, but that it will not be long before it will shew some salutary effect on the disease.—If there is no danger of a sore mouth I now recommend an internal mercurial, and let the bowels be ever so irritable at the commencement of the course, they will generally bear one perfectly well at this period of the process*. If the patient objects to frictions, at the beginning of the course, *Mercur. crud. cum Bals. sulph. ext.* may be substituted; but in a small dose, which may be gradually increased—Whether it purges much, or is after some days, followed with costiveness, a similar method of treatment may be adopted, as when speaking of frictions; the same may be said of *Calomel. Merc. calc. Solut. sublim.* when the course is entered upon

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with

* I generally use *Merc. calc.* or *calomel* if they set easy; if not, *Merc. crud. Bals. sulph. ext.*

with them, and the constitution will bear the irritation of these medicines.

In a very few days, and sometimes immediately, from the commencement of the costiveness, the effects of the medicine on the mouth may in a small degree be perceived; the patient becomes thin, pale, and somewhat weakened, but sometimes the costiveness appears many days before the other symptoms, and sometimes the natural state of the bowels is not much altered. When, however, the foregoing effects of the medicine are present, great attention, in the further prosecution of the course, will be required to keep the balance even, between the circumstances which dispose to strength or weakness. For as, on the one hand, by urging the remedy too precipitately, the practitioner may bring on such an affection of the mouth as may put him under the necessity of confining the patient; so on the other, by not pushing it far enough, he may suffer its invigorating power to get too great an ascendancy over the habit;
and

and thereby lessen the efficacy of the course, as an antivenereal. In the method under confinement already considered, we are apt to rely too much on the effect the medicine has, *simply on the mouth*, without regarding sufficiently the *quantity* employed or its *retention* in the system. In an alterative course, being pretty sure of the two last circumstances, we trust, perhaps, too much to them, without considering that the internal symptoms of putrefaction, of which the affection of the mouth is only the general mark should be not only raised, but kept up, till the disease is perfectly cured. This putrefactive process not only comes on much later, but a cure most frequently requires, that it be continued longer, than in the method under confinement. I mean when the intention is to cure a troublesome primary or secondary symptom. If the remedy can be so managed as not to affect the mouth too soon, and a fair accumulation is at the same time made in the system, within three weeks or a month, there will re-

main the same space of time for the production of the putrefactive change: for a cure can seldom be performed in this method in less than five, it is often six weeks, or two months. And this variation depends, on the obstinacy of the symptom, on the habit of the patient, on the effect of the medicine, and on the prevalence of those circumstances during the course, which dispose to strength, and which counteract the natural progress of the medicine: and to these may be added, a regular or irregular method of living. Indeed irregularities may occasion its protraction greatly beyond the limits above mentioned.

The degree of affection in the mouth differs greatly in different persons. Sometimes, after a fair accumulation effected within a month or somewhat more, the tenderness of the gums shall be so trifling as to be scarce perceivable, and that only at the very close of the course; sometimes there shall be a fair secession of the gums from some of the teeth,
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even after three weeks, which shall continue till by the repeated attacks of the medicine on the system the disease shall be fairly eradicated; the tenderness of the mouth, during all that time, being neither lessened, nor materially increased.

The effects on the disease are in this case gradual, they do not begin till the mouth becomes touched, nor till the usual symptoms of putrefaction, as prostration of strength, &c. arise; and the cure is seldom completed till a considerable degree of emaciation and weakness has taken place. But it sometimes happens, even in this method, that a similar effort in the system prevails, as in the method under confinement, of forcing open one or more of the secretions usually influenced by mercury. If this should appear at the close of the course, when the system is sufficiently loaded, the effects of the remedy will be as conspicuous, but not quite so rapid, or certain, as under confinement; and when it has been preceded by some degree of tenderness in the mouth, with prostra-

tion of strength, &c. for several days; it is the limit beyond which we should not go. Indeed when these effects have subsided, if the disease still continues, and nothing contra-indicates, the medicine may be again recurred to. For though in salivation the decisive revolution seems sometimes to take place in a few hours; that depends entirely on its violence, and on the perfectness of the external and internal changes. We are not to expect the same consequences in an alterative course. However, even in this, the transition from disease to health is remarkably quick, and is, at the end of the process brought about by the operation of the medicine in a few days. It is therefore less necessary to guard against interruptions at the commencement, than towards the close of the course. For the business of the first weeks is to cause a due absorption and retention of a sufficient quantity of the medicine; the intention in the latter weeks should be carefully to watch over
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and sustain for a proper length of time the anti-venereal effects of the medicine.

The habit which salivates readily, is much more under control in this method than in the preceding, and the effects of purgatives, and the warm bath, for repressing an impending ptyalism are much more to be relied on. And this is probably owing to the concurring influence of a constant exposure to the external atmosphere.

But the most troublesome case is, when the circumstances under which the course is pursued co-operate with an acquired or natural inaptitude to salivation. The medicine has been introduced, we will suppose, for several weeks; no alteration, save perhaps a slight emaciation, can be perceived in the patient's appearance, nor any in the disease. What is then to be done? If the symptom is a hazardous one and spreading with rapidity, confinement will be the safest and best assistant to the cure. But if he cannot submit to this; if the doses of the medicine have been already in-

creased to the utmost, another preparation may be added to the first, and so on. Or, if little or no tenderness of the gums has yet taken place, a mercurial topic may be applied directly to the mouth and throat, which by giving to the medicine the property it seems more particularly to want, I mean the disposition to affect the salivary glands, perhaps its proper operation on the system and disease, may be produced.

The best medicine I know of, for this purpose, is *Mercur. alcaliz.* thrown dry from a paper into the throat, and suddenly washed down with water. But if this, and the other means recommended fail, there is no alternative but confinement. As to a cinnabar fumigation to the throat, unless there are spreading ulcerations on this part, it has too powerful an effect on the salivary glands to be trusted to; though this preparation might be applied as a topic, in the case of a spreading chancre on the glans, and by this surface, a considerable portion
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of the medicine may be taken into the circulation.

The inconveniences of the alterative course, just described, may be ranged under two heads: the one appertains to it as a method, its defects being interwoven in its very nature, which no modification in the application of the medicine can fully remedy. The other it possesses in some measure in common with the method under confinement. Under the first, come all those cases in which this method has generally, and will for ever prove injudicious and ineffectual. It is injudicious to trust to it when a symptom is to be treated which is proceeding with great rapidity; in which much more injury is likely to accrue to the patient, if he waits the issue of the slow effect usually attending an alterative course, than he can possibly receive from a temporary fore mouth.—I have fully shewn that the decisive change in this method never can be produced in a short space of time, unless salivation is absolutely risked, and if
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thistakes place, the course is no longer an alterative one, for the cure must be finished according to the method under confinement. If the anxiety of the patient, or mistaken zeal of the practitioner, prompts the latter to the use of a powerful topic before the proper antivenereal effects from the general application of the remedy have appeared, eight times in ten he will not cure the disease; he will only damp the fire for the present, which at some future time will rage in the old, or a new form with inconceivable obstinacy: as this, therefore, can be only a temporary expedient, there is no man, I hope, however blinded he may be by prejudice, who will not see the propriety, I had almost said the absolute necessity, of confining the patient under the circumstances just described. It is ineffectual, when the power of habit and idiosyncrasy of the patient so far predominate, that no quantity of mercury, however large, can be made to produce the proper putrefactive consequences.

Independent of the accidents to which those who have weak lungs, of every temperament, are liable from the action of mercury; there is one in which I have never seen a mercurial course entered upon, whether under confinement or in the alterative way, but with a great degree of serious anxiety. The case I have in my eye is the true and very delicate sanguineous temperament, in which the complexion is exceedingly fair and florid, the hair light, the eyes blue, the make slender, the neck long and tapering, the shoulders high, and the chest perhaps narrow; in which there is a constitutional propensity to catarrh, to hæmoptoe, and phthisis pulmonalis. Let the two methods which have been very fully, and I hope fairly considered, be applied to this particular constitution; and let any man, who is capable of determining from his knowledge in the natural progress of diseases, and in the effects of medicine, tell me, whether in such a constitution an alterative course continued for an obstinate primary, or secondary

dary symptom, for one, two, or perhaps three months, during the coldest and most variable seasons in our climate, or even in summer, is not much more likely from its consequences to be injurious, than the other method, which does not take up half the time, and in which all exposure to the inclemency of our atmosphere and every kind of inducement to irregularity are wholly avoided : and lastly, in which the quantity of mercury necessary for the cure is not perhaps half so much. And this leads me to observe farther, that in a tedious alterative course, the strong action kept up in the vessels is not of the acute, but of the chronic kind, which in every, even in the best possible, temperament, must more or less dispose to hectic. But I am happy to have it in my power to say, that amidst the great variety of cases, in which the alterative method only, can be employed, these *infortunia* do not happen often : and, when they do, irregularities on the side of the patient, who will not always submit to a proper regimen, have as

great, if not a greater share in doing the mischief than the quantity of mercury received, the length of the course, or even the exposure to a very changeable atmosphere. For it is very wonderful how easily, even delicate constitutions will, by habit and a cautious exhibition at the onset, accommodate themselves to the use of this medicine, and seemingly without material inconvenience. Indeed, if it was otherwise, the remedy would be almost literally as bad as the disease.

An alterative course then, conducted with the proper attention, may, with great propriety and general success, be applied to most of the primary, and to some of the secondary symptoms of the *Lues Venerea*. By the first of these terms I mean chancre, chancrous excoriation, and venereal bubo: by the last, a venereal sore throat, when a primary symptom has preceded—venereal eruptions—nodes—venereal pains—venereal excrescences, &c. In the idiosyncrasy, too prone to salivation, it may be adopted,

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ed, perhaps, in preference to the method under confinement: the reasons for which have been already adduced, and I hope sufficiently explained. It must however be remembered, that this mode of cure is more certain and safe, in summer than in winter—in a warm climate than in a cold one, and under a guarded exposure to the very variable atmosphere of this country, than under an irregular course of life without such precaution.

There are certain topical applications, which have been very freely employed as assistants to the power of mercury for expediting a cure, or stopping the hasty progress of particular symptoms. These may be ranked under the general name of *sedatives*. By the term, I mean not those only, which in strictness of etymology come under this head, as the vitriolic and saturnine; but all mercurial, and caustic medicaments, whether used for the professed purpose of destroying a diseased surface; or in a more diluted state, as promoters of good sup-
puration

puration and granulation in parts ulcerated. For these, though they act with some degree of irritation, have yet ultimately, with respect to the disease, a similar effect with sedatives of the astringent kind. In this class may be ranked *Caust. Lunar.* whether in its original form, or dissolved in a very large proportion of water. *Merc. Præcip. R.* whether employed alone, or mixed with a cerate of wax and oil, &c. They have a tendency to check, and even cure a venereal sore, though the disease, of which this sore is a symptom remains unsubdued in the habit. And this is one cause of imperfect cures in primary symptoms, and will in part account for the great number of those called secondary, which are daily met with. If these applications were employed with proper caution, and never; without the fairest and most unequivocal general operation from the specific, this recurrence of the disease would not so frequently happen.

Some

Some of the best writers, both ancient and modern, have cautioned us with a great deal of earnestness against the use of astringent sedatives, and other repellents, in some of the stages of the *Lues Venerea*; particularly in the three general primary symptoms above mentioned. And being fully sensible of the inconveniences arising from the application of these topics to a common chancre, which they could see; they transferred the same idea to the *gonorrhœa virulenta*, which they seem to have taken for an internal ulceration of the chancrous kind. If their notions of the *Gonorrhœa* had been just, the doctrine they have laid down would have been equally and upon the same principle applicable to both symptoms. Without entering at present minutely into the theory of the *Gonorrhœa*, it may be worth while to shew that though disagreeable consequences do sometimes arise from the application of sedatives to the train of symptoms which go under that general name; yet a moderate attention to practice

tice must convince any one that they are not those of a chancre or chancrous excoriation, imperfectly or too suddenly healed. For, from the latter we have generally secondary symptoms of the *Lues Venerea*; in the former, so far as my experience has extended, we have not. At least the assertion is strictly true, in much the greater number of Gonorrhææ which are daily met with and are called virulent: and if I mistake not, the ill consequences arising from astringent sedatives when applied to them are of another and very different kind; and are owing more to mismanaged inflammation, than suppressed infection.

At one period of a virulent Gonorrhæa, not only the whole tract of the urethra, but the glands in immediate connection with it, and which open into it, are rendered highly irritable, and are in a state of increasing inflammation. The smallest stimulus applied to any one of these parts is very readily extended to, and vibrates throughout the whole. The discharge under these circumstances, though thin,

and perhaps somewhat stimulating bears a proportion to the violence of the inflammation; and when the latter is sufficiently moderated, becomes greatly instrumental to the cure; as it is an evacuation immediately from the part inflamed, whose vessels it never fails to unload. If we put the idea of infection out of the question, the same kind of antiphlogistic treatment nearly becomes necessary in the inflammatory stage of this disease, as in a true peripneumony, with spitting from the mucous membrane of the lungs, or as in a very violent inflammatory catarrh; and as in these two diseases the sudden subsidence of the increased secretion from the membrane never fails to exasperate the inflammatory symptoms to such a degree, as sometimes to threaten immediate suffocation; or, if the patient escapes this danger, to terminate in suppuration, ulceration, or adhesion; so in Gonorrhæa, when a check is put to the discharge from the urethra by an astringent sedative, by a calomel, or any other injection,

injection, which diminishes considerably, or totally stops this natural evacuation; the tendency to phlegmonous inflammation in every part of the canal, but that which the sedative immediately touches, is greatly increased, and a train of deep seated inflammatory symptoms ensue. A medicine of this kind therefore is in no case safe under the circumstances above-mentioned; it is unsafe even with an antiphlogistic treatment, but it is infinitely more so without it: and if the patient escapes the effects of immediate inflammation high up in the passage—hernia humoralis—affection of Cowper's glands or the prostate, he most frequently lays the foundation of a future stricture.

But the consequences of a suppressed venereal symptom are very different, and are purely, and without the smallest mixture of inflammation, those of repelled infection; and the never failing consequence of an improper general or topical treatment of a venereal bubo, chancre, or chancrous excoriation, will be to produce at a future, perhaps no

very distant period, some one or more secondary symptoms; and in these, as well as every other case of the *Lues Venerea*, properly so called, the practitioner should depend as much as possible on the general effects of the specific for a cure.

Some have imagined that the first rudiment of a chancre, that is, the pimple before its conversion into an ulcer, was curable solely by the application of a caustic; others go so far as to imagine that an incipient chancre, even when it is fairly characterised, may be in like manner healed, without any ill consequences ensuing to the constitution; in both cases they go on the principle that the complaint is merely local; that the poison has not yet entered the circulation, and therefore that this kind of treatment cannot do any injury. With regard to the first of these states, no man I believe can distinguish with certainty a venereal pimple from one which is not so. But if he could, the impropriety of all topics is to the full as clear and irre-

fragable as in the more advanced stage of a chancre. Whether the infecting fluid be received by abrasion, in which case it undergoes a change in the infected part, on which it is deposited, or whether it is immediately absorbed by the lymphatic pores, and conveyed to the inguinal glands, as when a bubo appears as a first symptom; the fact I believe is, that it is taken up and mixed with the circulating lymph, even in *coitu*. If that is the case, the practice I am now considering must fall to the ground, and is on no principle whatever defensible: so that chancre, chanerous excoriation, venereal bubo, though apparently local affections only, are yet symptoms of a general disease, which exists in the habit from the moment of infection.

In a small, very recent, and uninfamed chancre even water, when it has been taken from a spring impregnated either with aluminous or vitriolic particles, may be so powerfully sedative as to stop the progress and fermentation of

the poison on the part, and heal the ulceration: and in this stage of the disease *Lotio ex calomel Ung. Mercur. Cerat. alb. cum præcip. R.* all medicines of the *vitriolic* or *saturnine* kinds, and many others, will have a similar bad effect. In the more advanced state of a chancre the same sort of applications may be hurtful, by causing the sudden cicatrization of the sore, or by making it put on that healthy appearance which should be produced by the most unequivocal general effects of mercury on the constitution, and, if possible, by those only.

And I am very much mistaken if these kind of applications have not a tendency to drive back into the circulation a considerable portion of true infecting matter, which when a chancre is left to the general operation of mercury would find an exit from the part and from the system. Whether it be owing to this circumstance or no, I cannot say, but I think I have several times seen the progress of the more advanced symptoms of the disease brought on before the usual period, by the
too

too sudden healing of a chancre or chancrous excoriation. An astringent sedative generally leaves a mark on the cicatrix of a common chancre that it has healed, by which its action may be distinguished from a topic simply mercurial; this mark is a general hardness of the part, or of its circumference, as if the styptic quality of the medicine had puckered up one large, or a number of small inflamed lymphatics, and sometimes a turgid vessel may be traced from this induration towards the nearest lymphatic gland.

Mercury, even in its mildest form, when used as a topic, is perhaps no less dangerous than a powerful astringent sedative; though this opinion wants some further proof.

It may be said that when a chancre has been healed by the general operation of the remedy simply, when no other topic has been used but mere water, and that only for the purpose of cleanliness, that a small portion of infecting matter may adhere to the external parts sufficient to reproduce the symptom when it has been

once healed, or that by its contact with the sebaceous matter of the glands, or mucus of the urethra, it may cause a *gonorrhæa virulenta*. Having often seen a chancre at the orifice of the urethra, simple and without any one attendant symptom of a gonorrhæa which has yielded in due time to mercury only, without the smallest appearance of this last disease supervening, I very much doubt the truth of the above opinion. But, supposing it well founded, it only proves this, that a certain portion of the remedy for the perfect elimination of the disease, should be applied to the part infected, as well as to the system, and that though a mercurial topic may be called in, as an assistant to the more powerful general effects of the medicine, it is by no means to be trusted to alone, or employed, when those effects have not been produced, or when they are imperfect.

If a mercurial sedative acts powerfully it frequently leaves no hardness on the part by which its operation may be traced, it is therefore, when too much trusted to,

to, a more dangerous application than those of the astringent kind. And even when the stimulant is used to the system in general, if its operation is defective in any of its most essential requisites, what is it but a sedative?—It will damp, and that for a very considerable length of time, the disease it would have cured, had the proper internal and external effects been produced.

What has been said in regard to sedatives in general, will, I hope, be sufficient to dissuade all those who have not attended much to their operation, from using them without a pressing occasion; this occasion does sometimes occur in practice. In an ozena, in spreading ulcerations of the tonsils or uvula, in large spreading chancres with considerable phymosis, and perhaps in a few other cases, they may be employed early, to prevent mischief which is impending, and of the most alarming kind; but when they are, the general operation of the specific should be complete in all its parts; and sometimes they may be necessary, not
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only whilst the decisive putrefactive changes are taking place, but afterwards not simply as means of cure themselves, but as powerful remedies to quiet local irritation, and assist the proper antivenereal effects of the general stimulant. When the disease is palliated, but not perfectly cured, by the joint effects of these kind of medicines, and a slovenly general use of mercury; the symptom which supervenes is generally much more difficult of cure than when the same symptom has occurred from the imperfect operation of the medicine simply, without the interposition of any sedative topic.

If a venereal symptom is suffered to remain under the influence of no other circumstance, save the general and proper action of mercury, by carefully watching the progress of that symptom, a very good direction may be obtained as to the quantity of the remedy to be introduced, and as to the effects it must raise in the system. But if the appearance is altered by a topic, this very useful source of information is lost, and, in that case, the
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only dependence for a cure must be on a very powerful operation from the medicine; and this operation may perhaps be more violent than the disease would have required, if no such topic had ever been used.

What has been now said on the abuse of sedatives, only respects the patient, as an individual, and has no reference to society.—But, if it be considered, that every person, infected with chancres or chancrous excoriation may, during the existence of either of these affections, very readily communicate the disease to no inconsiderable number of women, and that when once the infecting medium, the venereal matter, is done away from the parts by the action of a sedative or a caustic, it is evident, though these applications may be injurious to the patient, yet they are certainly, in many cases, effectual in preventing the farther propagation of the disease from one sex to the other.

From what has been said respecting the external use of sedatives, the reader
will

will see, that I am no enemy to them when they are employed merely to assist the general operation of mercury, by quieting local irritation, Nor to the application of *caust. lunar. mer. præcip. r. pulv. sabin.* &c. whenever the structure of any part is so far injured, that the usual applications to the system will not reach it; as in some excrescences. But I would advise the utmost caution in the use of the one set of topics, or the other, in cases of simple uninfamed chancre, or chancrous excoriation; more especially, when the general effects of the specific are, in any degree, equivocal.

In the foregoing pages the ill consequences of a too sudden, and too violent an affection of the mouth; and the anti-venereal power of the method under confinement, when no such affection could possibly be raised, were distinctly noted, and the attention of the student directed to that *middle state*, which is equidistant from

from the two extremes, of violent salivation, and the slightest possible impression. Having so done, I was greatly surprized to find myself represented, as an advocate for common, or unqualified salivation, and of salivation only, in the cure of the *Lues Venerea* ; more especially, as I had taken some pains to discriminate between the *internal*, most essential effects of mercury, which denote a putrefaction *sui generis*, from those which are *external* : and had actually applied this very principle of putrefaction, in contradistinction to salivation, as the only probable one, that could account for the known anti-venereal power of the remedy. The former inquiry, so far as it went, was by no means designed to raise the reputation of the one method, unfairly, and at the expence of the other ; but it was a free, and liberal investigation of the merits, and demerits of both, as they are generally practised. It did not tend to an implicit reliance on any one mode of treatment, universally ; or in all possible cases. But it shewed clearly, the propriety

priety of adopting the leading principles of salivation, or the alterative method, as circumstances should direct. In the discussion of a great practical question, I was, it is true, under the necessity of entering into a minute examination of the usual effects of *salivation*, in all its different states. But the particular application of these effects, to the several degrees of virulence, and stages of the disease, was reserved for a subsequent part of the work. And though a general preference was given to the *middle* state above specified; yet that state differs very materially from *common salivation*. It is neither raised in the same manner; nor has it any of those painful effects attending it, which render *that process* greatly dreaded by all ranks of people. To apply the term of common, unqualified salivation, therefore, to such a mercurial course is to confound two things, which are, in their own natures, widely different.

If by the term salivation, I have been supposed to mean, the mere salivary secretion, more especially when it is violent,

lent, it is readily allowed, that that, is not necessary to a cure; because it is, when unconnected with other effects, an evacuation only. But I have all along intended the word in a very different sense; and employed it, to express a method of cure under confinement, without any reference to the mere salivary discharge; but in which the mouth is most frequently more or less affected, not simply with an increased secretion of saliva, but generally;—with tenderness; slight, superficial excoriation; temporary secession of the gums from the teeth; and a greater, or less degree of fœtor of the breath. These *external* effects are described to be nearly synchronous with others, called *internal*. And I believe the production of the *latter*, in a greater or less degree, to be in every case truly venereal, absolutely necessary to a cure, and that no instance of failure can be adduced, in which they have been *perfect*; and they may be so, not only without any degree of salivation, but almost without any perceivable affection

tion of the mouth, the one set of effects is always necessary ; the other, only when the putrefactive changes cannot be produced, without the correspondent external type.

When an affection of the mouth has, however, by accident, arisen to any degree of violence, and manifested a very quick and extraordinary degree of antivenereal power, (as in the first history given, page 19,) to deny its efficacy would be, to be wholly insensible to a self-evident truth.

Without applying this fact to any particular case, I mentioned it, as a circumstance worth knowing. And I still maintain, that there certainly is a superior degree of power annexed to the remedy, when the whole of the putrefactive process takes place with this train of consequences ; a power, which, no modification in the effects, short of salivation, can *constantly* produce. But the application of this fact, to the symptoms of the disease, is another question ; which I can only consider at present, in a cursory manner.

manner. When a practitioner attempts to cure secondary symptoms, without producing a fore mouth, he will sometimes find, even under the advantage of confinement, after a trial of some weeks, that his patient is far from well : in such a situation, it will be a comfort to himself, and no small benefit to his employer, to know, that by increasing the doses of the medicine, so as fairly to raise this affection, (though by no means such a one, as came on by accident in the above case, or such as is generally understood by the term salivation,) that the cure will *certainly* follow. Every man, conversant in the disease, must be sensible, that such a kind of salivation is sometimes unavoidable ; and they who are not, should have the candour to be silent, till time and experience shew them, whether the proposition be true or false.

To explain more fully the author's ideas of the method of cure under confinement he wishes to recommend ; (for salivation, in the common acceptation of the word, he cannot allow it to be.) All,

he contends for, is the propriety of producing the important putrefactive changes so often mentioned, with a short lived tenderness of the gums, and parts within the mouth, with fœtor, and moderate secretion of saliva. A chain of effects, which, in his opinion, should be neither raised hastily, nor by too small a quantity of mercury, but progressively; after several days have been spent, in forming a sufficient accumulation; which effects are not to take place as in salivation, at the *commencement*, but towards the *close* of the course *. When the quantity introduced

* If Boerhaave, Van Swieten, and some other authors are consulted, it will be found, that they endeavoured to raise salivation, by a few doses of the medicine, in a very short space of time. These doses were, indeed, large, or taken from the most active preparations of mercury, and when they had once raised what they conceived to be the precise quantity of salivary discharge, they kept it up to that point for a greater or less number of days. — But tho' their doses were large, the aggregate quantity of the specific used was generally small. In all those cases in which the flux was neither hasty, nor so violent as to preclude the further introduction of mercury, the quantity in circulation might easily be increased, and when this was properly attended to, the cures effected

duced has raised the usual changes in the system, and these have been followed by the removal of every symptom of the disease, then the medicine may be discontinued, and its effects suffered to subside ; in general, without the necessity of employing it for a longer time. But if the changes should not be perfect, nor the symptoms cured, the state of the mouth will be favourable to the further use of the remedy, and the quantity in circulation may be immediately increased, without the smallest loss of time, till it has reached the precise point.

Laying aside other considerations that might be offered ; such a method of cure is, generally, much less exceptionable than an alterative course ; because the practitioner has the remedy wholly within his power, under the most favourable circumstances, for a cure ; because in this way, a

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effected by this method were perfect. But in all hasty, rapid salivations, when the doctrine of Sydenham, that the disease could be cured only by salivation, was too implicitly relied on, or not clearly understood, they must have failed very frequently.

much larger quantity of it can be safely introduced within the same given time ; and also, because its natural operation seems to be more perfect. It is preferable to hasty or ordinary salivation ; because the quantity of mercury taken in, and retained, is not limited ; because the necessary accumulation may be completed without interruption ; and because the pain inseparable from the usual method of salivating, is, in a great measure, obviated. It has advantages, even over that method of treatment, in which salivation is intended, but in which, little or no perceivable affection of the mouth can be produced ; because it will cure in much less time, than such method ; because it requires a much smaller quantity of mercury to effect a cure ; and because it is, from that very circumstance, probably less injurious to the constitution.

The above treatment will cure many secondary, as well as primary symptoms. The alterative method, will do the same ; though by no means in so short a time, nor with the
same

same certainty, or safety. I sincerely wish I could say, from experience, that these methods were always equal to the disease. But the truth ought not to be concealed. The uninformed should know, that there are some symptoms, which no alterative course, hitherto made public, will ever cure, so as not to have a relapse in future. Nor will even the above method under confinement succeed, in some few cases ; unless the quantity of mercury employed be considerable, and the effects carried to the *fair point of salivation*. When I say that, I advert, particularly, to the kind of habit, in which the requisite putrefactive process cannot be made to take place, without a considerable affection of the mouth ; and to the cure of the most obstinate stages of the disease.

A more direct, and circumstantial application of the above method, under confinement, when its effects on *the habit*, and *mouth*, need only be slight ; of the same method, when more forcibly

urged to *fair salivation*; and of the *alterative*; will be given hereafter.

They only, who have carefully noted the operation of the specific in the worst secondary symptoms, can have a just, or adequate idea of the force, with which the disease, as it were, rivets itself, to some constitutions. I have made choice of these, as the fairest tests, for determining the relative degrees of power in the several methods; and waited patiently for years, to see, whether the cases that I supposed cured, actually remained so. I have scarce met with a single instance of relapse, in any case, in which the method under confinement was properly conducted. It has cured venereal ophthalmiæ, without leaving any defect to vision; venereal farcocoeles; eruptions; diseased bones, of many years standing. It has permanently cured obstinate ulcerations in the face, tongue, and throat; some of which had existed for years, and, from the little effect produced on them, by alterative and less rigid mercurial courses, had been thought to be cancerous and incurable.

incurable. And in all these cases it was not only necessary to use the specific, in the manner recommended *under confinement*; but to carry the effects to that point, at which it will generally produce the proper *internal* changes, either with, or without a *fair salivation*: and it has always cured with the greatest facility, when this alteration in the system has taken place *with* salivation; with much greater difficulty, when it has not. Though I believe that the one way may be as certain, as the other. From these facts, I think myself fully vindicated in giving a superior degree of efficacy to this method. But, what is frequently the only remedy in cases like these would be much too powerful for the milder and more general venereal symptoms, particularly for some of those, called primary. To cure which, a less quantity of the medicine, and much slighter effects, will amply suffice.

O B S E R V A T I O N S
ON THE
T R E A T M E N T
O F
P A R T I C U L A R S Y M P T O M S.

HAVING in the foregoing pages made some general remarks on the medical properties of mercury in the *Lues Venerea*, I mean, at present, to point out more particularly, the application of those properties to the several stages of the disease. And that the reader's attention may be the more readily fixed to its proper object, as I proceed, I shall note the medical treatment of each individual symptom, mentioned in the first volume of this work. The former arrangement on the application of mercury was a general one; in which I endeavoured to shew, the different degrees of power in the medicine, under different circumstances,

and

and was meant as a foundation for this part of the work. I am now to adapt that power, as far as I am able, to particular symptoms, having, at the same time, a reference to the specific disease, as the source from which all these symptoms originate. To this end, the quantity of mercury introduced into the circulation, the effects of that medicine on the system and mouth, together with that influence, or power, which naturally arises from a just combination of effect with quantity, must be attended to, and proportioned, to the different stages, or degrees of virulence in the disease. If the first of these requisites (the aggregate quantity) be wanting, the effects of the medicine, how violent soever they may be on the constitution, or mouth, will frequently fail. And on the other hand, if, through inattention or want of judgment, these effects are never produced, the same misfortune will frequently follow from the largest quantity. Therefore, that seems to be the most successful plan,

plan, in which certain effects on the constitution, and mouth, are raised by a due quantity of the medicine. Having already explained my ideas very fully, as to the effects to be produced, I need not repeat them in this place. It may, however, be expected, that I should endeavour to fix and ascertain the quantity of mercury generally necessary for a cure. But as this has been shewn to be indefinite, and fluctuating, it will be best left to the judgment of the practitioner. As a general rule, I shall only say, that from a just consideration of the symptoms before him, whether primary or secondary, whether of an early or late date, when joined to a proper degree of attention to the effects and quantity of the medicine taken in, or absorbed, he may easily ascertain this matter to a certainty. As I do not mean to give a recipe for every symptom, in the manner of a receipt-book, so I look upon it, that whoever knows the disease, and is in possession of the facts I have taken some pains to establish,

blish, with respect to the effects of the medicine, can be at no loss, as to a very safe and effectual method of using it, nor of applying it properly to the generality of cases that may occur, whether primary or secondary, whether slight or violent. But there is one thing which must not be omitted. An early apthous chancre certainly does not require for cure, either so large a quantity of mercury, or such considerable effects, as a more obstinate primary or secondary symptom. And this is almost the only instance, in which the disease considered abstractedly, and without a reference to Gonorrhœa Virulenta, can be said to require a smaller quantity, or slighter effects in one symptom than in another: A late chancre, an eruption, a node, and every secondary symptom whatever, demand, as parts of the same infectious disease, not only the same specific effects, but nearly the same specific quantity of the medicine. Thus, less than *Hydrarg. crud.* ʒviiij. even under confinement, will seldom cure an early chancre, when
 used

used in the way of friction. In later symptoms ʒxvi. or more, are generally necessary, unless what is wanting in quantity is supplied by the violent operation of the medicine on the constitution and mouth; and these, it must be remembered, will often compensate for the want of quantity *.

The general doses employed in frictions are, from *Hydr. crud.* gr. xv. to ʒi. and upwards, about a third part of which, and not more, may, perhaps, by rubbing for half an hour, get fairly into the circulation. I look upon *Hydrarg. gr. x.* *Bals. sulph. ext.* to be equal to *Ung.*

* In the cure of a secondary symptom, under confinement, I have known thirty grains of *Hydrarg.* used by friction, when the effects on the mouth have been violent, cure within a short time—and on the other hand, I have observed a secondary symptom of the same kind, withstand the effects of the medicine, and not yield to it, under five weeks, though considerably more than eight ounces has been employed in the fairest manner.—As a general rule, perhaps the quantity for a primary symptom should be never less than ʒi. nor less than ʒij. for a secondary one; when (as I said before) the violence of its operation does not supply the place of quantity.

Mercur.

Mercur. fort. ʒij. and so in proportion for a larger dose.

With respect to *Mercur. calc. calomel. solut. sublim.* and some other chymical preparations of the mineral; as they vary greatly in point of strength, so are they very variable in their effects. The quantity necessary for a cure must of course be exceedingly different in them all. I shall therefore only observe, that the precise quantity of each preparation is ascertainable by due attention to its strength and effects on the mouth, habit, and disease. As these effects appear under confinement, or in the alterative method of using mercury, in both which there is a very remarkable difference in the aggregate quantity necessary for a cure, as has been already very fully shewn. Perhaps the best of them is the *Mer. calc.* and this medicine I am convinced may be safely given for a continuance in a larger dose than has been customary. I have exhibited it to the quantity of gr. ij. *nocte maneque*, by a gradual increase from the first dose, and with great

great effect; and in those whose bowels are not easily ruffled, it may perhaps be given in still larger doses.

Early Chancre not very irritable, apthous—date from the time of receiving infection, within three weeks: vide vol. I.

p. 23.—* The cure conducted under confinement by frictions—the effects to be produced—fœtor of the breath, slight affection of the mouth, without mercurial griping, or much increase of the salivary secretion towards the close of the course, and principally by the latter doses of the medicine. Every friction from the beginning to the end of the course, must be fairly performed for the space of half an hour, by the patient himself, with his naked hands. The dose originally begun with, may, after a little time, be doubled, trebled, or quadrupled, as circumstances may direct; and, even at that increase, continued for the necessary, but indefinable period. At

* I call this species of chancre apthous—but it may, with more propriety, be compared to a small spot, or portion of rusty bacon.

the

the close of which (as has been already said) the above effects, which mark in a slight manner, the decisive operation of the medicine, should be produced, and they will, when raised by the proper quantity of mercury, shew a notable influence on the disease. The appearance of the chancre, after spreading a little, will alter: its callous edges, and base will soften, it will grow clean, and become a healing sore. In some cases these effects happen after using the remedy for eight or ten days, even before the mouth becomes affected; but most frequently not till a few days later, when the mouth and system are evidently touched by the general operation of the medicine, at which time the venereal ulceration heals almost immediately. But if it should not, the accumulation must be increased till that event takes place *fully*. The sore should be not only healed, but perfectly cicatrized without the smallest remaining hardness, and it may frequently be necessary to continue the medicine for two or three days longer. The

disease

disease is now only in its infancy, so that the effects of the medicine need not be at all violent, and they are so certain in their operation, that they entirely supersede the use of all topics, water and dry lint only excepted. And as the local irritation is in this stage of chancre too trifling to require attention, there can be no necessity for any other application.

When the sore has been thus perfectly healed by the general operation of the medicine alone, the parts must be kept clean, by washing them for a few days with soap and water.

If it be considered, that this symptom, slight as it seems, is the principal origin of all that train of consequences, which have been described under the head of secondary symptoms, it will not, I hope, be deemed a waste of time, if I urge, in the most earnest manner, a due degree of attention to the quantity of mercury introduced, and to its effects on the mouth, system, and disease. I leave the quantity to be determined by the judgment of the practitioner; and shall only say,

say, that from the most accurate observations I have been able to make, from a great number of cases, it does not appear to me, that more than half what is generally necessary in a primary symptom of a much older date, or in a secondary one, is necessary in this stage of the disease.

I have hitherto supposed the medicine employed under confinement, which I am convinced, from numberless instances, is the most easy method, both for the patient and practitioner, when it can be complied with. But when this cannot be submitted to, either from the particular situation of the patient, his prejudices, or idiosyncrasy, an *alterative* method must be followed; and here the aggregate quantity of the medicine must be considerably increased, and the time of cure prolonged. It is however in general perfectly safe.

With respect to the conduct of it, care should be taken, that the connexion between the several doses should be preserved, if possible, entire, and without

the intermission of a single day, till a considerable accumulation is made. We will suppose, that not less than *Hydrarg. crud.* \bar{z} ss. has been fairly used. The effects of the medicine should now be closely attended to; if the mouth is not affected, and the sore, either at a stand, or but just beginning to look well, it will be evident, that the present quantity is insufficient for a cure. The accumulation must therefore be increased, and the usual dose doubled, or otherwise enlarged; and each dose will operate more powerfully if used at short intervals. When the violence of the effects does not call for a diminution, or discontinuance of the usual dose, the process should always be carried on from a quantity comparatively small, to a much larger. If this order is inverted, that is, if after employing a full dose, the practitioner either negligently, or without necessity, has recourse to a small one, or goes from a strong preparation to a weak one, the course is immediately checked, and the effects to be expected from it, weakened.

With

With these precautions the medicine is to be urged till the sore heals, smoothly, perfectly, and without the smallest remaining hardness. In a case so recent, as that now supposed, by the fair introduction of a sufficient quantity of mercury, even tho' the effects on the mouth and habit should be so slight as to be scarcely perceivable, a cure will frequently follow, and that, when such quantity is by no means large, though always considerably larger, than in the method under confinement.

But it sometimes happens, even in this early state of the disease, that the mouth and system must be more evidently affected before the sore will heal, or shew the smallest tendency towards healing. Tendernefs of the gums, fœtor of the breath, disposition to increased secretion of the saliva, languor, prostration of strength, sudden emaciation, sometimes with, sometimes without a dysenteric kind of affection of the bowels, arising after a preceding costiveness, are the leading *external marks* denoting the *deci-*

five internal changes, which are at such time going on in the system, and as they are all synchronous with these changes, they also are decisive; and as such, when a less powerful operation from the medicine has been tried and failed, may be considered as the precise point to which we may safely go. And it is very seldom that we need go beyond this point, and, in my opinion, we never ought to do it immediately, that is, without waiting the effect of these phenomena.

Having thus in the first place secured a fair accumulation of the medicine, and then produced the natural effects from that accumulation towards the close of the course, whilst the system is loaded, we must wait the result. In some cases the sore immediately heals upon the coming on of these symptoms: when I say immediately, I mean in the short period of a night's time. But in others it may be three, four, or more days; for which time it will be right to trust to the present effects of the medicine, without attempting to lessen or increase them, unless

less they flag or become violent. Irritation will sometimes prevent a chancre from healing perfectly, even when the quantity of mercury has been a full one, and all the above effects in due degree; under that circumstance, after waiting for the operation of those effects on the sore for three days, I would immediately destroy the old surface, and cause the regeneration of a new one, by touching the part with the *Lapis Lunaris*: and with the same intention the *Merc. corros.* R. &c. may be employed.

For the few days, during which the medicine is producing its decisive effects, irregularities on the side of the patient should be carefully guarded against, exposure to night-air, and to cold should be avoided as much as possible; and if the bowels should be dysenterically affected, this symptom must be attended to.

It is very remarkable, but as far as my observations have gone, I have constantly found it true, that an affection of the bowels, with griping and tenesmus from mercury, unlike every other dysenteric

kind of affection, should never be treated by any kind of purgative, not even the most gentle. This should be particularly noted, for I have seen very great inconvenience arise from a non-attention to it. In more than two hundred cases I have known this symptom, and that restlessness which often accompanies the short period, during which the medicine is rapidly producing its decisive effects, relieved immediately, as by a charm, solely by quieting the general and local irritation with a warm opiate. *Philon. Rom. gr. xx.* will generally answer this purpose effectually. But if a single dose should be insufficient, or produce only a temporary relief, it may be repeated every eight hours, or night and morning. It will add to the efficacy of the medicine, if the patient will keep himself warm, and compose himself on the bed for a few hours. Costiveness, with some slight increase of the tenderness of the gums, and disposition to an increased secretion of saliva, come on in consequence of this treatment; the patient finds himself greatly

greatly refreshed, and in a short time, the whole of the effects subside. And, generally, from the moment irritation is quieted by the above means, the further use of mercury becomes unnecessary.

Some persons may perhaps think me premature, in applying the decisive effects of the medicine thus early in the case of a recent chancre. They certainly are not always necessary in this stage of the symptom: a fair accumulation of the medicine, with a very slight affection of the mouth, without the dysenteric effect, being generally sufficient to heal the sore perfectly, and without danger from future consequences. In the method under confinement just given, I must beg to be understood with the same limitation. But instances do now and then occur in both courses, even in this stage of the disease, in which they must be produced.

In the habit, not naturally disposed to an affection of the mouth, the preceding costiveness, the slight fœtor of the breath, the sudden emaciation, languor, and pro-

stration of strength, &c. coming on after a considerable accumulation has been made, seem equally decisive, with the more evident effects of the medicine just pointed out, and as such may be relied upon.

The above method under confinement to effect a cure, takes up from fourteen to twenty one, or more days. The alterative, four, five, six weeks, and when the medicine operates with some degree of sluggishness, the time of cure may be two months.

The same species of chancre when more advanced; the date from infection from three to six weeks, but still without inflammation or increased secretion of sebaceous matter. (Vide vol. I. p. 30.) The cure of this stage will be best performed under confinement, because the disease is at this period making hasty strides towards the natural time of an eruption: and if the medicine is not introduced, so as to anticipate this last symptom, the disease will be vastly more difficult of cure afterwards. In an alterative course, it frequently happens, that though the power of the medicine

dicine seems to keep off the eruption, yet the chancre remains at a stand, without healing. If a topic is used to promote the healing, and no further effects are produced from the specific, though it be still continued in considerable quantity, either an eruption, a sore throat, or some other secondary symptom will probably follow. It is, therefore, clear that the great thing wanting, in the alterative course, is a due degree of force in the decisive effects of the remedy. Besides, from the constant irritation the part suffers by exercise, as well as from the slow effects of the medicine, this course does not always prevent the spreading of the sore. And this is another argument in favour of confinement, and that very necessary degree of quietude, which is the certain consequence of it. For these reasons, in the stage of chancre now under consideration, confinement is generally preferable to an alterative course, when it can be used with propriety. And if that is the method pursued, even though the sore be of several weeks standing, and the disease going on

quickly towards an eruption, yet, as the medicine will operate fully, and under the most favourable circumstances, the chancre seldom spreads much, or becomes highly irritable: after enlarging a little, it gets clean, and at length heals, without any supervening affection of the sebaceous glands. Water, even in this case, is the best wash, and a small piece of soft fine lint, the best topic. But, if it should so happen, that more than that should, from the largeness and irritability of the sore, become necessary, *Merc. corros. R. opt. lævig. gr. xx. cum cerat. alb. ʒj..* will make the discharge less acrimonious, by thickening it; and the sore less irritable, without healing it too soon. If the aggregate quantity of the specific is, what it ought to be, a full one, and used under confinement, it may not always be necessary to urge it, till it produces a dysenteric affection. It is, however, in general, much safer to produce all the decisive effects of the medicine.

Alterative method. The application of this kind of course is nearly the same in
this

this as in the preceding stage of chancre. The two stages only differ in date, and in the degree of virulence. And, therefore, the reason there given for the production of the most unequivocal, decisive effects of the medicine will apply, with more propriety, to this stage than to that. And I hold it to be of excellent use when it can be done, to enjoin confinement for a few days towards the close of the course, that these effects may be fairly raised; and that no injury may arise from exposure to inclement weather, irregularities, &c. for this is the time, at which these circumstances may be more particularly dangerous. Every one sees the impropriety of a person, whilst under a course of mercury, under confinement, exposing himself to these inconveniences; and yet nothing is more common than to neglect this kind of care, at this period of an alterative course. It may be said, that habit and the gradual exposure to air, &c. during a cure by this method, fortify the constitution sufficiently against the danger. During the former

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mer part of the course, and to the time at which the decisive effects are beginning to take place, this mode of reasoning may perhaps apply. But two reasons may be given, why, at this particular period, it is certainly inapplicable. In the first place, the inconveniences I have mentioned will disturb the natural operation of the medicine.—In the next, Every constitution appears to be infinitely more susceptible of the bad effects of cold air, &c. at this, than at any other period of the course, because the whole system is at such time, in a weak and languid state, with every pore and every secretion open. In this stage of chancre, it is frequently necessary to urge the medicine in this kind of course, till it causes, not only the other considerable effects of mercury, but the dysenteric affection. When these circumstances are disregarded, the tedious period of two, or perhaps more months, must be waited for, and even with that clog, the same suite of effects will be often required before the cure can be compleated.

Chancre

Chancre of nearly the same date with the preceding ; but with considerable irritability, increased secretion from the sebaceous glands of the part, and disposition to phymosis. Vide vol. 1 page 32.

The same general means of relief are applicable in this, as in the preceding case, and the proposition must be taken in its fullest extent. As to topics, if they can be avoided, so much the better. By attending, from time to time, to the state of the sore, the practice may be regulated as to the quantity of the medicine necessary, and as to its effects and operation on the disease. But, if the part is kept in motion by exercise, or otherwise irritated, that natural tendency which a late chancre always has to spread will be considerably increased ; and the system being at the same time stimulated by the medicine, a phymosis may probably come on. To obviate this, the part should be kept carefully clean, irritation should be quieted by opium, after having lowered the impetus of the circulation by evacuants, and motion
should

should be avoided as much as possible; having so done, the weak mercurial cerate, above recommended, may be tried. If it simply thickens the discharge, without increasing the irritability of the parts, it may be continued. But if it irritates too much, or the present subsisting irritation is very great, a lotion *ex calomel. et aq. rosar.* may be substituted. If this should not agree, a weak solution of the *lotio antiseptic.* of Saint Bartholomew's hospital may be had recourse to. The latter is a very powerful sedative, but it is also an astringent, and as such apt to leave a hardness on the part. For which reason the mercurial is perhaps preferable.

It would be fortunate for the credit of the alterative method if this plan, or indeed any other similar one, was generally effectual in obviating phymosis.

In this state of the disease, the most trifling irritation on the part from exercise, riding or intemperance, will frequently render these, (and I firmly believe every other means conducted under the
pre-

prevalent idea of an alterative course, particularly where a natural tendency to phymosis prevails,) abortive. Rest, absolute unequivocal rest, with every collateral assistance that can possibly be had, from quieting the local and general irritation, must be joined to the immediate, and most decisive effects from the remedy. If this is not done, the disease will either continue to make its ravages without a sufficient check, or, if the applications used locally, act powerfully, other symptoms, and in particular those of the secondary kind, will come on; and the parts quieted will continue in an unnatural, callous, diseased state. To prevent these disagreeable circumstances, rest must be procured by keeping the parts from motion under strict confinement; the other means for quieting irritation must be also used, and the operation of the remedy should be complete in all its parts, and urged to the production of every essential requisite.

If the favourable time for obviating phymosis is neglected, or if the means employed

employed to prevent this symptom fail of producing the desired effect, then, to the methods recommended above, there must be joined a more particular local treatment; for, on the latter much will depend. The prepuce has, we will suppose, inflamed throughout, and no longer suffers the glans to be denuded, the discharge from the chancre, which is now highly irritable, from the contraction of the orifice of the prepuce lodges; there is an excoriation of the sebaceous glands on the surface of the balanus, and from the prepuce being internally in the same state, a thin, and very acrimonious secretion takes place, which adds very considerably to the irritation. The discharge from confinement, becomes every moment more and more stimulating; and unless the progress of the symptoms are checked, the prepuce sloughs at the upper part, and the glans, after suffering from the spreading of the chancres, makes its way through the aperture, formed by this sloughing.

It

It sometimes is, sometimes not practicable to prevent this train of symptoms —when the prepuce will no longer suffer the glans to be denuded, and the parts are not yet in so highly irritable a state, as to be too tender to bear the use of frequent injections of warm water and other fluids between the glans and prepuce, *Injeēt. ex calomel. vel mercur. panacea alb. cum vel sine mucilag. gum Arab.* or *Lotio antisept.* diluted, may be employed. Opium must be used, guarding the patient at the same time from costiveness, and the specific introduced boldly, and in full doses. In some cases the impetus of the circulation must be previously lowered. These means, if used sufficiently early, will probably save the prepuce, and prevent much injury to the glans. But, as I have elsewhere hinted, under circumstances like these, salivation (taking the term in its common acceptance) is frequently a subordinate consideration, and must, at all events, be risked. For it may happen, that nothing but the coming on of a painful affection of the

VOL. II. M mouth

mouth will put a stop to the rapid progress of irritation on the glans and prepuce. The affection of the mouth seems in this case, to act in a twofold way, by correcting the virulence of the disease, on which the local irritation of the chancre depends; and by the revulsion, a new irritation, raised in a different part of the system, makes from the original one.

If the prepuce sloughs, the parts should be kept clean, by washing them with warm water, and with one or other of the above mercurial lotions, and afterwards dressed, *Cerat. mercur. corros. rub.* If, during the separation of the parts, a considerable hæmorrhage should ensue, it may be checked by astringent sedatives locally; and the *cortex* given internally; but a slight bleeding will be salutary, and help to take off distention. During the inflammatory stage of a phymosis I would rely on opium, and the above means, rather than the *cortex*; but when the parts, from irritation or over-distention, have actually sloughed, the latter may be given in full doses. The sores, those I mean

mean which are unavoidably the consequence of the sloughing, as well as the original chancres, are venereal, and, as such, require both a general and a local application of mercury. As an immediate dressing, a poultice of boiled carrots, or of *farina lini*, will be found a very useful one, more especially if the parts ulcerated are at every dressing washed with one or other of the above-mentioned mercurial lotions*.

The irritable, livid, spreading, moist kind of chancre. Vide p. 39. Vol. I.

What there may be in this species of chancre to render it so peculiarly different from the other is difficult to say.

With respect to topics, which its great irritability, and the uncommon acrimony of the discharge seem to require, they are, for the most part, indispensably necessary. But if that happy medium can be found, of quieting the local irritation, whether it be done by opium, or other

M 2 means,

* Or the sores may be dressed with lint, moistened with these lotions, and the part afterwards covered with a pledget of cerate.

means, without the application, from its astringency, specific, or sedative power, healing the sore prematurely, a very great point will be gained. With regard to the general operation of the medicine, the quantity should be a full one, and as great as in the more advanced state of an apthous chancre ; and its effects should be in every particular complete. From the uncommon rapidity and virulence of this symptom this conduct appears to me necessary, even when no topic has been employed. But when sedatives have been used, it becomes infinitely more worthy of attention. And, in this case, I am of opinion, that nothing short of a large accumulation under strict confinement, and of the unequivocal production of the decisive external, as well as internal, general effects from mercury, will cure. A large accumulation, with only a slight affection of the mouth, without dysenteric affection, even under six weeks confinement, I know, in one case, did not cure : the sore, indeed, healed, but an ulceration of one of the tonsils came on two months

months afterwards ; and this happened, though the topic employed was nothing more than the *cerat. rub. mercur.* and so slightly impregnated with mercury, that it seemed to act in a very gradual manner, and more as a digestive than as a sedative.

It is sometimes absolutely necessary to employ the *Lotic antisept.* *Lotio ex calomel, &c.* merely to diminish the great irritability of the sore, and prevent phymosis ; but, whenever this is done, I am of opinion, that the general effects of the medicine should not only be such as I have just described, but that, in the attempt to bring on the decisive internal effects of mercury, even salivation may, (after a sufficient accumulation of the medicine), with propriety be risked. To speak the truth, relapses would probably be less frequent than they are, if the operation of the remedy was, generally, carried to this point. The most proper time in every mercurial course for the employment of a powerful topic to chancre seems to be only during the three or four days at the close of the course, when the me-

dicine is quickly producing its antivenereal effects. In every case where this period can with safety be waited for, it should, perhaps, be done. But when, from the havock likely to ensue immediately, in consequence of the irritable state of a chancre, or chancrous excoriation (as a less evil must ever give way to a greater) the use of sedatives is warrantable. But whenever they are used, the operation of the specific should be in every respect perfect, for its partial effects are not to be depended upon ; and it has appeared to me, a point of the utmost consequence, to confine the use of topics, whenever it can be done, to the period above-mentioned, that the effects of the application, and the general operation of the specific, may take place, nearly at the same time, which should be on the second, third, or fourth day from the commencement of the decisive, general, effects of the medicine,

Cure of Bubo. The management of this symptom must be regulated by its different states. In its most early state the induration is trifling, barely tender to the touch, and the inflammation only beginning. In the second, both the tenderness and induration are considerably increased, and the inflammation proceeding fast to the third stage, or that of suppuration. In the fourth, an opening having been made, either by art or nature, the matter is thereby discharged, and there remains an external sore, with a diseased vuide, or cavity.

In the first of these states, by leaving the original symptom (the chancre) under that discharge which naturally belongs to it, and interposing a cooling purgative now and then, during the introduction of mercury, a part of which may be rubbed in, below the diseased gland, it may very frequently be prevented from increasing. And as the medicine ope-

rates on the chancre, so will it act on the induration—violent exercise, drinking, and whatever tends to increase the circulation, should be avoided, and in some cases an antiphlogistic regimen enjoined. The cure may be conducted either in the alterative method, or under confinement; the latter is generally preferable, because local irritation can be sufficiently guarded against; and because the medicine, by producing its effects within a short space of time, will, probably with more certainty, anticipate suppuration in this method than in the alterative. If the habit will bear *Calomel. mercur. calc.* or the *solution. sublim.* the copious secretion these will produce from the glands of the intestines, will tend to unload the lymphatic system universally, and make a powerful revulsion from the inflamed part, and in many cases very properly supply the place of frictions and antiphlogistic purgatives. The date of the bubo, if that is the only symptom, or of the chancre, if it is not, must regulate the quantity and effects of the medicine.

That

That inflammation which attends the formation of a bubo, may generally be removed as certainly by the decisive operation of mercury, as the spreading and irritability of a common chancre, probably because the inflammation is immediately dependent on venereal infection. When a lymphatic gland has been once indurated, and the disease cured by the specific, it is generally requisite to keep the system cool, and the belly open for some time, to prevent a second enlargement. And this is more particularly necessary after a cure has been effected by frictions.

In the second state of a bubo, the inflammation and enlargement of the gland are, I will suppose, considerable. In this kind of case it is often a question, whether, when all other circumstances are equal, it is best to use mercury under confinement, or in the alterative way. In favour of the first, it may be said, that when the proper effects are produced, the medicine will frequently anticipate suppuration, and if it does not, it will diminish

diminish the enlargement so much, that the future collection of matter will rather deserve the name of a boil than a bubo: This is sometimes true. But it more frequently happens, that after a full and fair introduction of the specific under confinement, the gland, though it ceases to be inflamed, remains more or less indurated ; for some time it shews no tendency to suppurate, but when, after a discontinuance of the medicine, the patient takes to his former habits of living, and uses exercise, then the gland increases, and inflames a second time, and finally proceeds to suppuration. So that, after the usual length of time spent under confinement, a new course must be commenced, and the management of a suppurated bubo attended to. Besides this accident in this state of a bubo, there is another which sometimes arises in the method of cure under confinement. If a sore mouth comes on unexpectedly and prematurely, during the cure of a chancre, the first effect of the accident is to lessen the discharge from the sore, which
 imme-

immediately puts on the appearance of healing: this may happen when the operation of the medicine is much too partial, and long before the disease is cured, and may give rise to a bubo. From every chancre there runs a lymphatic vessel towards the nearest lymphatic gland, which vessel is the channel by which the poison is conveyed from the part infected, first to this gland, and thence into the system: when the medicine operates fully and fairly, the absorbent acts so powerfully, that the venereal matter it is constantly taking up, till the sore is healed, passes through the gland, without delay, and into the blood; with which it is mixed, and ultimately changed by the putrefactive process then going on in the system. But if, from the too partial operation of the medicine the absorbent acts too weakly, the matter may be stopped in the nearest lymphatic gland; it there remains quiet for a short time, but at length inflammation comes on, and the tumor suppurates. I am in some doubt, whether venereal matter thus deposited in a lymphatic

phatic gland, can be removed with safety, without bringing that gland to suppuration.—I rather think it cannot.

For the above reasons, when a bubo is in the state I am now supposing, and not too much inflamed, if the spreading of the chancre, or its irritability do not require absolute rest; or if there is no other particular circumstance to render an alterative course improper, I am of opinion, that a cure will be best conducted under it. Exercise, the way in which the patient will probably live, if he does not confine himself, and the stimulus of the medicine, which will be introduced gradually and by moderate doses, will co-operate in bringing on a gradual suppuration, and a cure, within the usual period of an alterative course.

When suppuration has taken place fully, and the integuments are become thin, the matter may be discharged by a small puncture with a lancet, or by rubbing the skin with a piece of good *Lapis Infernalis* till it has produced a small eschar,

not larger than a silver penny *. If the caustic is used, the eschar must be immediately divided, and the matter discharged. I believe, that the method of leaving the eschar to slough out, without making an early division, has a tendency to produce a re-absorption of matter into the neighbouring lymphatic glands, and to enlarge them. The abscess may sometimes be suffered to break of itself.

When an opening has been once made by art, or nature, nothing of the irritating kind must be applied, either to the sore or its immediate vicinity. There must be no poking after what are called sinuses, but irritation must be kept off; and the best dressing will be a soft poultice *ex farina lini*. Under this gentle treatment,

*This method of opening buboes I had, many years ago, from the late Mr. Spray, who had been in the habit of using it ever since the year 1747. He frequently opened abscesses in the same manner, and sometimes destroyed small encysted and scirrhus tumours, by rubbing them for a few minutes with the above caustic.—And it was to that gentleman that I owed the hint of using it to the scrotum and tunica vaginalis for the radical cure of the hydrocele.

treatment, if the specific is at the same time introduced properly into the habit, the parts which were before in a diseased, indurated, painful state, will subside, they will daily become less tender, and the vuide, or cavity, however large, will, by degrees, fill up, and contract itself. That such has been the event from this mode of treatment, I have very frequently experienced, and, I apprehend, that the prevention of a phagadenic sore, which so often follows a bubo, depends, in a great measure, upon the smallness of the opening, and quantity of skin preserved; which, as it is the most natural, so is it, I believe, the best defence against irritation, and the best possible covering to the diseased cavity. Large dilatation, taking away a considerable portion of skin, either by excision or caustic, have ever appeared to me, not only useless, but detrimental, by making the sore highly irritable, which, under better and more gentle treatment, would never become so.

When

When the cavity is in a manner obliterated, and healed up, there will be sometimes a difficulty in uniting a small portion of skin to the surface immediately under it. If the two surfaces are irritated with a probe, so as to cause the effusion of a few drops of blood, and assisted by pressure, a union may generally be effected. This want of union is most likely to happen when a bubo has been suffered to break of itself.

Treatment of a bubo after suppuration, when attended with considerable irritation. This subject would, perhaps, come more properly under the head of secondary symptoms than under this. But, as it is generally the consequence of mismanaging a bubo, after suppuration, I must consider it in this place.

This state of bubo is most likely to arise in an alterative course, from the constant irritation of riding or walking, from the local application of stimulants, or from the disease still lurking in the habit. It may also arise from improper rough treatment under confinement. The
effect

effect of these causes will be to produce a hard, crude, painful sore, which, though it may be said to contract itself daily, and to put on somewhat of the natural appearance of a healing sore, yet it either does not heal at all, or does not shew a tendency to heal, in a kindly manner. A soft poultice is here the best dressing. Opium may be given internally, and if the disease is not cured, frictions may be performed, both on the opposite thigh, and below the sore of that which is affected, if these have been used in the alterative way and fail, confinement, absolute rest, either with or without more powerful effects from the specific, as circumstances may direct, must be enjoined, having always a reference to the immediate producing cause.

Sometimes, in consequence of venereal mischief, the lymphatic glands, after suppuration, and the discharge of the contents of the abscess, remain in so diseased a state, that they must gradually subside, or melt down before the sore can be brought into a healing state. By
avoiding

avoiding irritation of every kind, and trusting principally to the general effects of the medicine, what was diseased will by degrees digest off, the cavity will contract, granulate, and, at length, heal. The melting down I here mean, is a kind of secondary suppuration, which sometimes takes place in these glands, and seems analogous to the dissolution of the cellular membrane produced in an abscess, when that membrane sloughs: and therefore must be distinguished from what is, strictly speaking, phagedenic. It is frequently met with after the operation of buboes in the alterative method, when the quantity of mercury, and its effects on the system, have been trifling; and it requires nothing but an easy dressing, rest, and the specific continued sufficiently long, to effect a cure.

The true phagedenic bubo differs very much from the preceding, and most frequently arises in a later infection: in which, besides a great irritability of habit, acquired partly from disease, and partly from the effects of the remedy too

forcibly urged, or too long continued, the usual tenderness and irritability of the fore are greatly increased.

In page 68, *Treatise on Mercury*, 1782, I noted that, from the effects of mercury, when urged too far, besides a permanent degree of weakness, to a very considerable degree of general irritability, was often joined a partial one. That a phagedenic appearance from mercury would in consequence sometimes arise, behind the posterior *dentes molares*, which appearance would spread towards the uvula. If, under the same circumstances of irritability, there should be a venereal ulceration on the tonsils, which, at one period of the course, had looked well, that that ulceration also might become phagedenic. That a venereal bubo, from the same causes, might get into the same state, the fore becoming exquisitely painful, and highly irritable, spreading from corner to corner at a great rate, eating away and undermining the surrounding skin irregularly; so as to produce an ill-looking ulceration, with ragged,

ged, callous, fiery edges. It was said that these appearances were sometimes the mere effect of mercury, but that they were also producible by the existence of a latent venereal taint, as it were roused up, but not eradicated by the stimulating power of the medicine.

It naturally follows from this account of a phagedenic sore, after the opening of a bubo, that the cure must be two-fold—that in the case arising from the mere irritation of mercury, when it has been urged too far, or used while the patient was not in a proper state to receive it, the whole treatment must depend on quieting general and local irritability. To answer the first of these intentions, a mild, bland diet, chiefly consisting of such substances as afford good nourishment without heating the system, milk, country air, sarsaparilla, and, in some particular cases, in which the debility is great, bark, taken either in substance, decoction or cold infusion (as circumstances may direct) will be proper. Rest must be procured by opium, and it is

evident from the late very useful experiments of Mr. Grant, that this medicine may be given in this kind of case in a much larger quantity than has been customary. In short it may sometimes be given almost as freely in this species of irritability, as in that which attends the mortification of the toes and feet described by Mr. Pott. The irritability of the part may also be quieted by the external application of a solution of opium in water *. All greasy applica-
tions

* I have sometimes found the external application of opium of use in painful sores of every kind, and particularly in the present case; but if it be considered that the quantity of opium, absorbed from a sore, is not only in proportion to the strength of the solution used, but that the extent of surface of that sore, to say nothing of the disposition to absorption, which the absorbents of the part may at one time, perhaps, have more than at another, it will be evident that not only the proper dose at each dressing, but the propriety of continuing that dose for a length of time, must be a matter of some consequence, requiring a very minute attention. The same may be said respecting the internal use of this medicine. If there is an irritability which more particularly requires its assistance at one time, or in one disease more than in another, there is also a period, in most
cases,

tions seem to do hurt: I have found the best dressing to be a poultice of boiled carrots, either used alone, or with a small portion of *farina lini* to give it consistence. The effect of boiled carrots in procuring ease, in lessening the quantity, and in ameliorating the quality of the discharge, from a gleetings painful sore is very great. It is perhaps the mildest of all digestives; it immediately alters the discharge, which, from being large, thin, and acrimonious, soon becomes thick, well conditioned, and small in quantity. It will have similar good effects, even in cases truly cance-

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rous

cases, at which that irritability ceases. In the present complaint, strength generally succeeds to great irritability; and whenever that happens, after the constitution has been for a time habituated to this medicine, no injury may perhaps follow from its continuance in full doses; but when great weakness prevails, the power of habit in some measure loses its influence, and that of the medicine, in the dose originally employed, returns. In such a case, if opium is employed at all, it should be, I apprehend, in the smallest, and by no means in the accustomed doses. Debility is itself a disease, often requiring a stimulus rather than a sedative; and opium is a sedative of the most powerful kind.

rous. Its power is so extensive, that it might be applied to all irritable sores universally, with great advantage. It is not only a diminisher of local irritability, but a powerful antiseptic, and will in all cases lessen, and in some take off entirely the usual fœtor of mortifications.

I have observed a very considerable difference in the effects of the boiled, and the raw root. The latter is somewhat stimulating; in cases where sloughs or mortified parts must separate, and where the local irritation is not very great, it will not only take off, or diminish the fœtor, but will cause a speedy separation of the diseased from the sound parts; that done, it ceases, in my opinion, to be of use, and the boiled root may be substituted.

Besides the above means in phagadenic bubo, it will sometimes be of use to wash the sore with a lotion *ex aq. rosar. & calomel. vel mercur. panacea alb. also aq. calc. cum calomel. &c.*

When a bubo becomes phagadenic, and the disease is not cured, the case is
much

much more complex than the former, and more difficult of cure. The best method seems to be to correct the habit and state of the fore in the first instance by the means laid down for the preceding case. After which, small doses of mercury may be gradually applied to the habit—slight frictions; or *Mercur. calc.* in small doses, *per se*, or with *sulph. aurat. ant. calomel.* given in the same manner, or *Solut. sublim.* &c. may be employed, either singly or variously combined according to circumstances, and the cure be afterwards compleated in the usual way. If the *Lues Venerea* is making its ravages in other parts of the system, as well as in one of the groins, and those ravages are likely to be of serious consequence, in that case, a mercurial ameliorant may be joined with the means recommended for taking off irritability, from the beginning. Either of the above mercurials will answer this intention, and when the vice of constitution has been by these means sufficiently mended, the specific may afterwards be more forcibly intro-

duced for the perfect eradication of the disease.

Having in p.30. vol. I. sufficiently described another very irritable species of sore arising from a bubo, in which the lymphatic glands remain hard, or otherwise diseased, and considered it, as a consequence of mismanagement. I must, in this place, mention what appears to me the most probable means of prevention, and of curing it, when it has actually taken place. With respect to prevention, that will depend upon the care taken to avoid, as much as possible, irritation of every kind, whether applied to the part or to the system. The habit of the patient, the method of employing mercury for his cure, the effect of that medicine on the constitution, and, in short, the whole treatment of the bubo, from simple enlargement to suppuration, and from apertion to the filling up of the cavity, are all to be attended to, and the case conducted, according to the gentle method I have laid down. If that is followed, I believe a phagedenic
sore

fore would very seldom, and one of the kind I am now considering, never happen.

If, however, a case of this kind has taken place, the diseased glands within the cavity of the abscess will be simply in a state of irritation, and enlarged, or else one, or more of them, having passed this stage, will have suffered a sloughing of their external coats or coverings, the body of each gland sprouting up in the form of an almost insensible fungus, with a surrounding fore, highly irritable and painful.

In the first of these two states, all the means recommended for the cure of a phagedenic bubo, dependent simply on local and general irritation, must be applied. By these the tumified parts will subside, the coats of such glands as still remain entire, will granulate, the whole fore will contract, and finally heal. I mean, if the disease be cured by the specific. And if it is not, the treatment must be a mixed one. But irritation must
at

at all events, be quieted in the first instance.

If the coat of a gland sloughs, there being nothing now left to limit the expansion of its spongy body, the latter shoots out into the form of a fungus, which is very little sensible, though the enlarged gland, whilst its covering remained entire, was perhaps exquisitely so.

The methods recommended for the extirpation of the fungus are the knife, ligature, or caustic. Of these, the latter appears to me most unexceptionable, provided the application used be a proper one; and the surrounding very irritable parts are carefully defended with lint, whilst the fungus is touched with the caustic.

The caustic employed in this case should be of a particular kind. The *lapis infernalis* will irritate too much, and, in spite of the care taken to guard the neighbouring parts from its action, they will, perhaps, suffer. The lunar caustic, not only irritates too much, but it does not act with sufficient power.

Besides,

Besides, the application employed (as was before observed) should be of a particular kind. It should, if possible, have one property which neither of the others possess. It should be capable of effecting the destruction of the part diseased, with the least possible degree of pain, and, if it could be done, of acting principally by its sedative power. Many years ago, I had a boy under my care for a large lax, fungous kind of excrescence on his chin, which I mortified by the application of a concentrated solution of *sacchar. saturni* in water, and I had no further trouble with it. The part acted upon by the sedative separated, and the sore healed very kindly. From this instance, it is plain, that, though in a diluted state, this medicine is an astringent sedative, yet, when concentrated or crude, it is a kind of caustic. From such an application I should expect a great deal, it might be used with bread, without oil or animal fat, in the form of a poultice. The parts which are the most sensible it could not injure.

Those

Those which are diseased, in a manner insensible, and almost out of the laws of circulation, by its sedative power, it would shrink and mortify.

Nor is this the only medicine which is applicable to the present case. It is well known, that *pulv. sabin.* is very commonly used for the destruction of verrucæ. What are the effects it produces? On the surrounding sound parts it causes slight excoriation rather than ulceration, on the excrescences themselves it acts more powerfully, causing them to moulder away. There is a something in the sound parts which keeps them from loss of substance; there is a want of *vis vitæ*, a sponginess, or a something in the verrucæ, which makes this medicine cause the complete destruction of them, without doing the like injury to the surrounding parts, though these are both sensible and irritable. And what is extraordinary, these effects it produces with very little pain, and the parts irritated remain cool, and generally without inflammation.

What has been said respecting the properties of the above medicines will apply in some measure to the vitriol cæruleum. It has been for ages in use, as a means of destroying the fungus arising in sores of all kinds. In its crude state, it is a slight caustic, from the intensity of its astringent and sedative properties. In a weak solution with water, it is a very gentle and powerful astringent sedative, it represses profuse discharges of all kinds, even when they arise from the cavities of joints; it is antiseptic; and a diminisher of irritability, not only when used externally, but when employed internally; it has none of the deleterious qualities of lead, and therefore may be applied with perfect safety for the destruction of the fungus above described; and I should hope, in preference to every other method.

How far either of these applications may be used with propriety to some cancerous sores, which do not admit of extirpation by the knife, may be perhaps worth an enquiry.

Venereal Eruption. (page 46. vol. I.)
 Fortunately for the cure of this symptom topics are of no avail, and therefore the general effects of the medicine alone, are to be relied on.

As the disease has now gained its acmè, and shewed itself by pustules on one surface, namely, the skin, between which and other surfaces, namely the tonsils and periosteum, &c. there is an evident consent, the transition of infection from one to the other being extremely easy. And, as at this period, the living power itself seems to be universally diseased, from the disposition to metastasis which now prevails, so it will be more particularly necessary, that the operation of the specific should be in every respect perfect; the practitioner neither trusting *solely* to the largest quantity, nor to any effects of the medicine, when unsupported by a proper accumulation. When idiosyncrasy does not render an alternative course more eligible than the method under confinement, the latter will be generally preferable. In both methods

methods the accumulation of the medicine must be a large one, and its general effects proportionably great. In both, towards the latter part of the course, the external as well as internal changes, so often mentioned, should be raised, where it can be done with safety. In the alterative method these may be made to take place without salivation, but, under confinement (when idiosyncrasy does not resist) after about one half of the medicine generally found necessary to cure a secondary symptom, has been fairly introduced, an increased secretion of saliva, and affection of the whole mouth, are rather to be aimed at than avoided. Whether it be that the increased flow of saliva, by cleansing the lymphatic system (which not only receives, but probably retains the seeds of infection throughout the whole progress of the disease) more completely than any other secretion, I will not say ; but the truth undoubtedly is, that a cure, not only takes place with most certainty after a sufficient accumulation, when the mouth is fully affected ;

but

but the deleterious effects of the medicine subside the sooner, in consequence of this affection.

How far the warm bath, sudorifics, or purgatives may be necessary to take off the stimulating effects of mercury, when salivation is wanting or defective, is a new question. And though I cannot allow a determination of the circulation to the other emunctories, to add any thing to the antivenereal effect of mercury, only is as far as such determination, may increase the general accumulation during the progress of a cure; yet both sweating and purging in proportion as they evacuate from the lymphatic system, may, perhaps, tend to lessen the stimulating effects of this medicine, after such course has been compleated. But, I believe, that the increased secretion from the glands of the mouth, as it seems to be the most natural, so is it probably the most effectual way of fulfilling this intention. What has been said on the general operation of mercury in the former part of this volume, tends to prove that, in ordinary

nary salivation, a just balance must be preserved between the stimulating, the putrefactive, and evacuant effects of the medicine. If this, in the vast variety of cases to be met with, could generally be done, there would be little doubt, but that in a symptom, like the present, ordinary salivation would be preferable to every other method. But the fact is, that salivation, even under the most careful treatment, cannot always be kept within proper bounds.——It has, therefore, been my aim, to give to the course under confinement, I have ventured to recommend, the inactivity, the rest, and exclusion from the external atmosphere, of ordinary salivation, to give it also what the latter is too often defective in, namely, a full and fair accumulation ; and having so done, to produce the very important putrefactive and evacuant effects of the medicine. A method, as I conceive, more within the controul of every one than ordinary salivation, *more easily graduated to the cure of every symptom*, and, I should hope, generally speaking,

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ing, more certain in its operation. Experience obliges me to add, that, in the application of this method to a venereal eruption, not only the stimulating and putrefactive effects, but fair and unequivocal salivation should be produced. I mean in all those cases in which idiosyncrasy does not otherwise determine the matter. Besides the immense advantage which this secretion is of, as an evacuant, and natural means of taking off the stimulating effects of the medicine, I must observe, that when an eruption has once appeared, the disposition to metastasis prevails universally over the whole system; and if the operation of the medicine is incomplete, or partial, not only an affection of the periosteum, but an ozæna, or total deprivation of sight, &c. may be the consequences.

Nor are the effects of mercury, when salivation is suppressed, to be treated lightly. In the third volume of the London Medical Observations there is a very useful paper on this subject by the late Dr. Sylvester. The case of the Girl
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in whose stomach so great a degree of irritability was produced by the sudden check put to salivation, that this organ could retain neither fluids nor medicines of any kind, for some months, is a very remarkable one. It was cured by reproducing this increased secretion. I have lately seen a vomiting and similar irritability brought on by exposure to cold, during the use of Plummer's pill, though the patient had only taken it for a few days, and in the smallest doses; which symptoms ceased upon the coming on of a plentiful salivation. And it is the only instance I have met with of this effect from this preparation of mercury. These symptoms were occasioned by getting out of bed in a cold night and checking perspiration. I suspect that not only great irritability of habit, ending in hectic, but many of our palsies are also to be attributed to the suppression of this secretion. I knew two instances, one was in salivation, the other in an alterative course, in which the application of cold produced palsy, but the patients recovered.

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with

With respect to the method above recommended, and its application to a venereal eruption; the time of cure will greatly depend on the effects of the medicine, as well as on the obstinacy of the disease. The sooner the affection of the mouth comes on, the shorter will this time be; the nearer it will approach to ordinary salivation, and of course the less will be the quantity of mercury employed. On the other hand, when a week, a fortnight, or more are spent, before the mouth becomes touched from the accumulation of the medicine, the longer will the time of treatment be, and the nearer will the method come, to that described under the name of alterative; but be the accumulation early or late, little or much, we apprehend that, in many cases, security cannot be given to the patient, without the production of the most clear and decisive effects from the medicine; nor when salivation unavoidably comes on, as one of them, without that affection, being considerable. The fœtor should be great, the parts within

within the mouth should be here and there superficially floughed, the cheeks and lips somewhat tumid; the salivary glands secreting plentifully till the mouth is with overflowing full; and in proportion to these external marks, so will the general effect of the medicine be internally, in producing that species of attenuation or putrefaction *sui generis*, which universally prevails in every course in which a cure is effected, whether by salivation, as it is commonly called, by the method above recommended, or by an alterative one. And if the two former of these methods are preferable to the latter, in which they certainly are in most of the worst cases of the disease, it is because the operation of the medicine is more complete and less partial in them than in the alterative.

When I say so much, let me not be misunderstood: I mean only to call the reader's attention to the fact, that the antivenereal power of such effects as these under confinement, when they follow a sufficiently large accumulation, is too

striking, and too well known to need a comment.

Under the general name of salivation, they have been uniformly produced, from the days of Barengareus Carpus to the present time, and employed as means of cure in the very worst cases, by a prodigious number of the most able practitioners throughout Europe, by Vigo, Fallopius, Sydenham, Boerhaave, Astruc, and a great many other respectable characters. And they are the effects which many of the first physicians and surgeons in this, as well as some other countries, are still obliged to have recourse to. If a less, and more partial operation from mercury will suffice, why do the gentlemen who have the conduct of venereal patients in the great hospitals of this town, still find themselves under the necessity of producing these effects? The reason is plain. Experience, that great touchstone of truth, every day shews them in a great variety of instances, that nothing short of these effects can be depended

pended upon, for the cure of the worst and more advanced stages of the disease.

With respect to the internal changes of which salivation is the general type, enough has been elsewhere said, to shew that these, whether the secretion of saliva be slight or considerable, are indispensable, and should be always produced, when the intention is to conquer an obstinate, or late symptom. Having very fully shewn the connection between this secretion and those internal changes, I need not enlarge further on this head; but shall only observe, that the effects of the medicine, and secretion of saliva, be they little or much, should be suffered to go off spontaneously; and, in my opinion, should not be checked, either by purging, exposure to air, or other means. It was a rule with Dr. Sydenham to give *mercur. dulc.* once a week for some months, upon the patient's going out and taking to his former habits, after the cure of a confirmed *Lues*. I do not know precisely, whether this may not be sometimes necessary. In some of the

worst cases, however, I have trusted to the above general effects of the medicine alone, without any after-treatment, neither using the saline preparations of mercury, nor sarsaparilla. A subsequent mercurial course, as it must be conducted in the alterative way, may be hurtful to the constitution, and unless it affects the mouth a second time, its effects, as an antivenereal, have generally appeared to me doubtful; and I believe, if the more efficacious original process be properly conducted, that this will be very seldom necessary. If, however, the further use of mercury should, from the particular obstinacy of any one symptom, be thought adviseable, the solution, or *Ward's drop*, may be given, largely diluted, either alone or joined with sarsaparilla. After the cure of a venereal eruption, or venereal sore throat, perhaps this last medicine may be particularly useful in obviating a nodous affection. In an alterative method of cure, if any one or more pustules continue on the skin, notwithstanding the free use of mercury, the latter should

should be generally employed, not only till such pustules produce pits, as in the natural small pox, but till the parts pitted become nearly of the same colour as the skin. Under confinement, when the effects of the specific are complete, the pitting should be evident, but it is not necessary, that the medicine should be urged till the parts recover their natural colour.

Neglected Chancre. (Vide Vol. I. page 67.)

The irritability, hardness, size, and date of this symptom must in some measure determine the quantity and effects of the medicine, as well as the method of cure. The course under confinement, recommended for the second stage of a recent chancre, and the alterative, which was also applied to that period of the disease, will often effect a cure. The former is however preferable. If either of these methods fail, the medicine must be urged to the point mentioned in the treatment of a recent venereal eruption; for the callosity must be dissolved, if possible.

possible, by the general operation of the specific alone. To assist which it may however be sometimes advisable to apply a mercurial to the part—*Hydrarg. axung. porcin. extinct.* is a good medicine for this purpose, or the vapour of mercury may be used, detached by means of heat from sulphur. Astringent sedatives will be hurtful, but if the whole of the hardness can be safely destroyed (after waiting for the general effects of the specific) by cathæretics, they will be sometimes useful: *Mercur. corros. rub.* or *caustic. lunar.* will answer this intention, but the first is the best application.

Neglected Bubo. (Vol. I pag. 69.)

The treatment of this symptom may be easily understood from what has been said on the cure of the different states of Bubo, in the foregoing division. And as in the preceding symptom, if milder methods fail, those which are more powerful must be had recourse to. I do not however consider this case as phagedenic, or attended with great irritation;
but

but suppose that the continuance and obstinacy of the sore arises principally from the disease having been palliated, but not cured; and therefore the means of relief must be sought for, rather in the general than local operation of mercury. To assist the general application of the remedy, however, it is sometimes necessary to use the *cerat. mercur. R. solut. mitis. caust. lunar. in aq. fontan. &c.* merely as promoters of sound and healthy granulations.

Verrucæ.

These excrescences may be easily destroyed with *pulv. sabin. rec. pulveriz.*—Mercury will frequently remove them, not only when the usual effects of it are produced in the system by its general operation; but also when used locally.

There is often no small degree of judgment required to determine when they are to be treated as venereal, and when not. When, as appendages to the disease, they require the general operation of the medicine: and when they
continue

continue in consequence of an injury having been done to the parts on which they appear, after the disease, which originally produced them, is cured. But be they small or large; and they are sometimes of a prodigious size, I can safely say, from experience, that *pulu. sabin.* properly applied, and steadily used, will cause them to moulder away. Having always found that this answered the purpose, without producing either much pain, or irritation on the parts, I say nothing of other means, which have been employed for the same purpose, namely, *Vitriol. cærul. ol. vitrioli—aq. diabolica*, or the knife, believing that these can hardly ever be necessary. But these observations are only applicable to the local treatment. When they arise, either alone, as appendages to a smothered pox, or in combination with other symptoms, undoubtedly venereal; the cure of the disease must be effected by general means; and as they are then most frequently late symptoms, they require

quire the most decisive effects from the remedy.

The red, spongy, fungous Verruca.

This may easily be destroyed by a touch or two with the *caustic. lunar.*—and the general treatment should be as in the preceding case.—But in both cases, the local treatment should be deferred to the second, third, or fourth day, from the commencement of the decisive effects of the specific, that there may be a co-operation in the general and topical treatment.

The large irregular Condylomata, of the Anus; by whatever name they may be distinguished, as *cristæ, fici, &c.* generally give way to a full and fair operation from the general remedy. The local treatment (when necessary), stands upon the same basis as that for the foregoing symptoms; and it should be, in my opinion, conducted in the same manner; and the specific employed as for a recent

recent venereal eruption, compared with which, the latter are late symptoms. And as the other secondary symptoms, mentioned in the second division of the natural history, Vol. I. p. 78, require from the specific no general means of relief, distinct from those recommended for a venereal eruption, I shall run them over briefly, noting, however, certain peculiarities in each, which often demand a mixed, and more complex treatment.

Venereal ulceration of the tonsils.

This should be accurately distinguished from all other affections of the same parts. What has been said, when speaking of this symptom in the preceding volume, will be sufficient, I hope, to enable any one to discriminate it from a common putrid fore-throat. But I am convinced, that these bodies are not only liable, like a venereal bubo, to become phagedenic; in which case, the general treatment must be the same as in that complaint; but from the action of mercury locally and partially on these glands, a sloughiness sometimes takes place,

place, which ends in their total dissolution. This I have seen, where salivation (taking the term in its common acceptation) could not be raised, though the quantity of mercury used was large; and have also seen it in many alterative courses; in which the tendency to salivation has been suppressed.—Great judgment is sometimes required to distinguish this from a venereal sore throat, the true venereal ulceration may be compared to lard or bacon fat; the mercurial affection has the appearance of a common slough. When the ulceration is clearly venereal, and spreading with rapidity towards the uvula, relief must be applied as soon as possible; for if this part is destroyed, an incurable defect in the voice will remain ever after. In such a case, a cinnabar fumigation may be occasionally employed, as an assistant to the general means of cure. But, if from the irritability of the patient's lungs, or his seeming tendency to be hectic, this medicine should be judged not to be perfectly safe, some other mild

I mercurial,

mercurial, in the form of a gargle, may be used. I prefer these to all applications of the astringent sedative kind. But if the ulceration, though venereal, is not spreading with great rapidity, the general means of relief may be the same as for a venereal eruption, and employed without the aid of any topic—till the ulceration heals, and the disease is cured. And the same mode of treatment is applicable to the indurated, horny kind of venereal affection of the tonsils. The common astringent sedatives will be particularly hurtful in this case. The induration will probably give way to the general action of the specific alone, but if it should not, a mercurial topic may be used, under certain restrictions. When the ulceration is spreading at a great rate, the doses of the medicine should be large, and, I am of opinion, that the production of ordinary salivation should, in that case, be risked. Should that take place, the cure must be conducted with the precautions formerly mentioned.

Venereal

Venereal sores of the skin, ulcerations on the posterior part of the œsophagus, and of the tongue or cheeks, are curable, by the same general means as the foregoing, and to these symptoms, mercurial topics are, sometimes, though rarely necessary.

Venereal Optthalmia.

The first intention towards the removal of this symptom, is to lower the increased circulation in the vessels of the part and of the system, if that be also necessary. Bleeding from the arm will effect the latter; and the application of leeches to the temples, the former: but as a vast deal depends on the speedy removal of the metastasis, which gives rise to this symptom. Cupping between the shoulders will in many cases be preferable to bleeding from the arm, as being more powerfully revulsive; and it may perhaps, in some cases very properly supply the place of leeches. Blistering may follow immediately upon lowering the circulation; and a brisk mercurial, or other purgative be given on

the following morning; and on the subsequent night the patient may rub in. This symptom sometimes appears under an acute, and sometimes under a chronic form. In the former case, a more free use of evacuants is required, than in the latter; but even in this, they are often necessary, both to lessen the local turgescence of the vessels of the eye, and as a security, that the stimulating effects of mercury may act with safety, without increasing the circulation too much. The eye itself should be kept from the light till the inflammation is gone; and the safest way will be to confine the patient in bed, and in total darkness, by covering both eyes. As a topic, tepid water may be applied with a sponge. I am in some doubt, whether *Hydrarg. axung. porcin. ext.* would not be a good application in this case. The blister should be kept open, and the specific daily pushed on, with as much expedition as possible, till a very considerable amendment takes place; the proper accumulation may be afterwards com-
pleated

pleated more leifurely, and the effects carried to the point recommended for a venereal eruption. But in this cafe, as well as in a fpreading ulceration of the tonfils, when the defluxion on the eye is confiderable, the fpecific muft be introduced in full dofes, and the production of falivation rifqued. And this conduct will be more particularly neceffary, if the ophthalmia is attended either with a partial, or total deprivation of fight; for the progrefs of this fymptom cannot be checked too early; and it may happen, that no quantity, nor any effect of mercury, fhort of a fair and full affection of the mouth, will anfwer this purpofe.

Venereal Sarcoccele.

This kind of enlargement is generally pyriform. It is curable by the fame mercurial procefs as the preceding fymptom. But it has been ufual to employ a portion of the ointment to the part itfelf, or to the fpermatic procefs. The general operation of the fpecific will however cure, without this local treatment, as I have

seen in many instances. If used prematurely, it may produce a metastasis of the disease to some other part; that part may be the eyes, the periosteum, or the root of the nose. It should therefore be employed rather towards the end of the course, than throughout its whole progress. When a large quantity of the specific has been, for a length of time, used locally, and the tumor has been removed by the joint operation of the general and local treatment, I think, I have sometimes found that the testicle has been left somewhat diminished in its natural size; probably from the stimulus of the medicine having produced a too strong action in the absorbents of the part. Both testicles should be properly suspended by a bag-truss, during the cure. I remember an instance of a man having this symptom on both sides, who was cured within the space of three days, by the coming on of an unexpected salivation, from so small a quantity of mercury as is contained in *Ung. merc. f. ʒj.* and *calomel. gr. ij.*

Rbagades.

Rhagades

The treatment of this symptom must be the same as for a venereal eruption.

Eruption and Nodes

These being synchronous, and for the most part, readily transmutable the one to the other, I shall consider them as having a very close, natural connection.

The treatment of a late venereal eruption should be nearly the same as for the recent one, formerly mentioned. But as the disease, from the length of time it has now subsisted, may reasonably be supposed to have vitiated the lymphatic and other parts of the system more thoroughly than in that: the propriety of employing an after treatment in the alterative way, as the most likely means of obviating a return of the disease, seems to be more evident. When the original process has been properly conducted, I have frequently (as has been already observed) relied upon that alone. And I believe that nothing more is, generally speaking, necessary. Venereal ophthalmiæ,

nodes, ulcerated tonsils, and several other of the most rebellious secondary symptoms, have I cured myself, and seen cured by others, without any subsequent use of mercury, and that when the course has been compleated within three weeks or a month : but as relapses do sometimes happen under the best treatment, particularly in old poxes, when the disease has by time become intimately blended, and, as it were, rooted into the constitution, if there is no circumstance in the habit that renders the further use of mercury unsafe, particularly if the season of the year be also favourable ; in that case, small doses of *mercur. calc. solut. sublim.* *Ward's drop*, or *Pil. plumber.* may be given for a few weeks, *cum decoct. sarsæ.*

The propriery of employing the above treatment must often depend upon the kind of course which has been adopted for the cure of the disease ; or which may have taken place through accident. If the patient has been cured by a process approaching nearly to that of ordinary salivation, in which the time of cure has
been

been short, and the quantity of medicine used, small; a subsequent alterative course may be more particularly necessary: but when the original process has approached somewhat to the nature of an alterative course, in which the time of cure under confinement has taken up four, five, six or seven weeks; and the quantity of mercury has been large, the decisive effects taking place towards the latter part of it, this kind of practice seems to be much less necessary; because every advantage, in such a course, has been obtained from the long continued stimulus of the medicine, as well as from its putrefactive effects. And it will be still less necessary, if during so long a course the more active saline preparations of mercury have been had recourse to, in aid to frictions. What has been now said will apply to some of the preceding secondary symptoms, as well as to those, the cure of which, I am about to mention. When I lay so great a stress, and place such entire confidence on what I have called the decisive effects of mercury, as to sup-

pose a subsequent alterative course needless, I do not consider them as new discoveries. Some practitioners of the present day may, if they please, doubt whether they should be received as leading principles of practice, or not; but it may be some satisfaction to the reader to be informed, that so far back as the beginning and middle of the sixteenth century, reiterated experience had, even then, gone a great way towards establishing their validity. Vigo cured the disease by making the breath fœtid, and the mouth sore. * But Nicolaus Massa, who was
for

“ Postea æger, ut supra, purgationibus purgatus, un-
 “ gatur seipsum, & si potest. juncturas post cœnam per tres ho-
 “ ras, & sit ante focum, et cubile sit clausum, & incipiat
 “ à juncturis claviculæ pedum, postea ad genua deve-
 “ niat, deinde cubitos ungat, postremo juncturas manus,
 “ & si virtus est fortis, & ægritudo magna, unge etiam
 “ juncturas inguinum, ancharam, & scapularum. Postea
 “ juncturæ stupa canapina calida cooperiantur, & ligen-
 “ tur, & ingrediatur lectum, cooperiaturque coopertoriis,
 “ ut sudet per duas horas; quod si per sudorem nimiam
 “ patiat lassitudinem, detur cyathus unus brodii galli-
 “ næ, vel carnis. Et sic procedere oportet ungendo sin-
 “ gulo vespere usquequo medicus videat exitum mani-
 “ festum materiæ phlegmaticæ ab ore, aut fluxum ven-

for many years in great repute at Venice,
and claimed the discovery of the red præ-
cipitate,

“ tris notabilem, vel sudorem, et ultra hoc videat di-
“ minutionem manifestam (si sunt pustulæ) pustularum
“ (& si sunt dolores) dolorum mitigationem (& si aposte-
“ ma) resolutionem ipsorum (& si ulcera) digestionem,
“ mundificationem, incarnationem, & cicatrizationem.
“ Et quoniam sæpissime accidit quod in aliquibus nullus
“ apparet fluxus materie ab ore, neque aliqua alteratio,
“ sive dolor dentium, neque fluxus ventris, aut aliquod
“ signum evacuationis manifestæ, etsi ægritudo sit mate-
“ rialis quæ sanatur evacuatione, dubitat medicus, nes-
“ ciens se regulare, de quantitate unctionis, et dierum
“ numero, quæ sint sufficientes in cura, ut sanetur æger.
“ Et ego multos annos in hac ambiguitate fui, usquequo
“ cognovi, quod in istis ungendo procedere oportet usque
“ ad aliquam manifestam pustularum, dolorum, aposte-
“ matum, et ulcerum sanationem, et virtutis tolerantiam
“ quod signum est mihi infallabile, & maxime quando ac-
“ cidunt lassitudines quædam syncopales, ultra dicta; &
“ tunc est judicium quod virtus agit circa materiam, sive
“ humiditatem bonam, in qua humiditate reservatur calor
“ naturalis, & cum hoc apparet, dimitte unctiones, &
“ conforta virtutem cum cibariis bonis, ut sint ova sorbi-
“ lia, confusa ex pulpis gallinarum, & caponum, & cum
“ vino aromatico, & aliis bene nutrientibus. Et ita ego
“ multos sanavi, qui ab aliis sæpe inuncti, non fuerunt
“ sanati, eo quia nullam alterationem oris, cum evacu-
“ atione faciebant unctiones, & medentes non cognos-
“ cebant quando perfecta erat eradicatio materiæ, quæ
“ quoniam non fuerunt eradicatæ, iterum morbus deterior
“ priore recidivabat. Sed ut melius me intelligas, ego
“ procedo

cipitate, the invention of which had been attributed to Vigo, enters much more fully into this matter. That lassitude, or (as he has expressed it) that half swooning lassitude, which marked, in his cases, the ultimate action of this medicine, when no affection of the mouth took place, is particularly worthy of attention

“ procedo in istis cum unctione usque ad lassitudinem dic-
 “ tam semisyncopalem. Sanavi inter alios unum (qui à
 “ pluribus jam fuerat inunctus, & non sanatus) quem per
 “ triginta septem dies inunxi, & liberatus fuit, & nun-
 “ quam recidivavit, & ab omnibus incurabilis dicebatur,
 “ & sanus adhuc vivit, & multos alios, ut dixi, signumque
 “ fuit mihi ut supra. Quare dico quod non potest dari
 “ certa regula de numero dierum unctionis, & quantitate,
 “ sed oportet procedere secundum fortitudinem patientis
 “ cum judicio bono existimativo. Sanavi etiam multos
 “ marasmos debiles cum ægritudine magna per plures re-
 “ iterationes unctionum, & ungebam per quatuor dies
 “ omni vespere, deinde dimittebam ipsos per hebdoma-
 “ dam quiescere sine unctione, sed cum bono regimine, &
 “ postea iterum ungebam per quinque dies vespere secun-
 “ dum eorum virtutes, iterumque dimittebam quiescere,
 “ & sic sanitati restitui sunt. Vidi etiam in aliquo virtu-
 “ tem debilem, & dolores acutissimos indigentes maxima
 “ unctione, & feci ungere per quatuor aut quinque dies,
 “ usque quo dolores fuerunt mitigati, postea per mensem
 “ feci ipsum bonis cibariis nutriri & iterum inunxi per
 “ multos dies, & sic sanatus fuit. Tua ergo erit secun-
 “ dum

tention. I was for many years under the same difficulty and uncertainty as this able practitioner, till repeated observation, in a great number of instances, clearly shewed me the same fact; and I do repeat that this is the precise point, to which we must often carry the effects of the medicine, if we mean to cure the disease.

Node

“ dum ægritudinem, & virtutem cum istis mitius, & fortius ungere, continue, & interpolatim, cave tamen ne pectoris partes inungas, ut docet Avicenna. Aeger tamen cum bonis cibariis semper nutriatur, & cum vino optimo, non vinoso, sed mediocri, & inter prandium & cœnam da scutellam brodii, semperque attende virtuti, & ægritudini, & omnino à ventis, & ab aëre frigido patiens abstineat læteturque. Et quando apparet fluxus humiditatum manifestus ab ore, cum dolore, & inflammatione gingivarum, & accidentia morbi remittuntur, ab unctionibus cessare oportet, & remove stupas cooperientes juncturas. Neque levare oportet loca inuncta, nisi ex nimia resolutione ægro syncope accidat, aut subita, & magna oris ulceratio præfocativa, vel fluxus ventris cum excoriatione intestinorum, vel aliquod aliud accidens, quæ si accidunt, remove unguenta, & stupas, quod si ex toto quæris abscindere virtutem unguentī, ne ultra procedat, juncturas lavabis, locaque alia, ubi cum dicto unguento illinitum fuit cum *vino calido simplici*, vel in quo *chamomelam* ebullire feceris, aut *salviam*, succurreque ad accidentia cum remediis infra scribendis.”

Vide *Aphrodis. Nich, Mass.*

Whether the nodous affection be hard or soft, diffused or circumscribed, the general treatment must be the same as for a late eruption. It has been usual in these as well as in some other cases; to use the specific locally, that the induration or enlargement may be the more effectually dissolved. To this I have no objection, provided the general operation of the medicine is to precede the local application of it, and the two modes of using it are allowed to co-operate during the production of the decisive internal changes: but it has generally happened to me, that the latter alone have been fully sufficient for the cure. The induration which generally occurs in this symptom is, for the most part, owing to a thickened periosteum, and gives way to the usual effects of the medicine; and what is remarkable, even when the subjacent bone seems to have suffered, the same effects will often operate so effectually on the part as to render an external opening and exfoliation unnecessary. But if any one or more bones should become carious,

the

the cure of the disease is to be in the first instance effected ; after which the separation of the caries is to be promoted by a general attention to the habit of the patient, in order that nature may be the better enabled to throw off the diseased from the sound parts. Country air, a well regulated diet, bark, and sarsaparilla will be useful. The cure of this *symptom* by mercury stands on the basis of every other obstinate secondary symptom, and when that has been effected, the medicine ceases to be a specific, and should be discontinued. The efficacy of sarsaparilla in Lues Venerea has, by some medical persons, been doubted. Even Fallopius who strongly recommends it in one part of his works for nodes, in another, seems rather to have used it for the relief of particular symptoms, than for the actual cure of the disease. After describing the root, and shewing its resemblance to the *Smilax Aspera* of Dioscorides, he says : “ Imbecillior est certè ligno (meaning guaiacum) habet tamen ipsa nobiles vires, quibus superat guaiacum ; et est quod
“ si

“ si post superatum Gallicum restent ul-
 “ cera, Rhagades circa sedem, duplo
 “ citius sanat hæc, quam Lignum Indi-
 “ cum.” He then goes on to describe
 briefly two cases; in one of which
 there were tophi or nodes on the feet,
 and tibiæ, equal in hardness to bone,
 which were, in a short time, dispersed
 by the use of this medicine: in the other
 there were tumours on the head, and gum-
 mata which were removed by the same
 means within ten days, and he adds:
 “ Cum ergo in Gallico adsunt ulcera ad
 “ hoc medicamentum confugio, tanquam
 “ ad certissimum, et tutissimum auxilium;
 “ et si non facit prima diæta, facit sal-
 “ tem secunda vel tertia. Præstans est
 “ guaiacum, tamen ego utor falsa in le-
 “ vibus. Soleo etiam miscere hæc duo
 “ simul.”

It has generally been the custom to
 join this root in the cure of Lues Ve-
 nerea with the specific; and this circum-
 stance has prevented us from speaking
 with certainty, as to its antivenereal
 power. As a matter deserving future en-

I quiry,

quiry, I shall only observe, that the disease, when it affects the periosteum and bones, may possibly be mitigated, if not permanently relieved by the use of this medicine. If it had not been discovered that the colouring juice of *rad. rubia tinct.* would actually make the bones of an animal, who is fed with it, red, it would not have been believed that such a thing were possible. Sarsaparilla is not endowed with the same colouring property, but it is not very unlike it as a root; and it does not follow, because it cannot be demonstrated, that water impregnated with this medicine, circulates through the bones, that therefore it has no effect whatever upon them. I cannot prove it; but I am strongly inclined to believe, that it will be found very useful in this and the other late stages of the disease. It must however be confessed, that neither the ancient nor modern proofs of its efficacy are so satisfactory as might be wished.

But there is another medicine which has, of late years, been too much neglected
the

the power of which is supported by more substantial documents. The medicine I mean is Guaiacum—not to mention the authority of * Boerhaave Nicolaus Massa has left us three very clear and striking instances of its efficacy; and that, in habits by no means favourable to the stimulating effects of this medicine. The cases he describes were of long standing, of the date of many years, and if a tent which was employed in the third case was not the sole cause of keeping the ulceration at the upper part of the trachea arteria open, they were all of them undoubtedly venereal. They are so curious, and the treatment of them was so much less severe than that recommended by some of the writers who have been advocates for the use of Guaiacum

* This writer, speaking of the virtues of Guaiacum, in his preface to the Venetian Collection of Authors, says:
 “Reminiscor lætus, quod juvenem sanaverim jam sanissimum virum et patrem familias, cui diversis corporis
 “locis ossis tabefacta adeo, ut in digito manus articulus
 “unus exciderit, in crure plurima loca cariota spectarentur. Hac methodo rite exculta, atque observata, ossicula narium, fragmenta palati, separata, cætera
 “sincera reliquerunt.”

Guaiacum, that I hope I shall be excused if I give them, without mutilation, in the words of the author *. The
treatise

* *Case 1.* “Primumque scribam quæ contigerint strenuo
“ Viro Domino Francisco de Plasentiis, Civi & Nobili
“ Cremenfi, qui tum effet temperaturæ calidæ & ficcæ,
“ ætatis supra triginta annos, vir plurimorum laborum,
“ incidit tandem in morbum Gallicum, qui nullis unquam
“ auxiliis medicorum tam purgantibus quam alterantibus
“ potuit liberari, sed per multos annos infelicem vitam
“ ducebat. Nam cum effet ex proprio temperamento cor-
“ pus gracile, ex diuturno morbo gracilior factus, me
“ convenit, narravitque plurima, quæ ipsum die noctuque
“ molestabant, inter quæ erant dolores in omnibus articu-
“ lis, & musculis membrorum, præsertim in parte ante-
“ riori capitis: aderant quin etiam tumores duri non so-
“ lum in capite, sed in pectore, brachiis, & cruribus, ex
“ quibus quidam exulcerati erant; cumque strenuum, &
“ nobilem militem audivissem, dixi posse illum ab hoc
“ morbo liberari, tametsi diuturnus effet, sed non leni-
“ bus illis medicamentis, quibus ipse ab aliis medicis
“ exhibitis recte usus fuerat; nam quampluries Viri docti
“ illi medela præstiterant, & non semel, sed pluries
“ decoctum ligni tradiderunt, atque etiam linimenta ad
“ morbum Gallicum administrarunt, neque (ut dixi) li-
“ berari potuit, sed in deterius semper malum processit,
“ quare, cum corpus universum labefactatum effet,
“ præsertim jecur, necessum erat jecur refrigeratum ad
“ contraria alterare, & universa membra, referta plurima
“ materia pituitosa, expurgare, atque etiam ad propri-
“ um redigere temperamentum, sicque eum sanitati re-
“ stituere;

treatise of Ulrich Hutton, in which he describes his own case, is also deserving

“stituere; verum, cum antea audisset, quod non levibus
 “medicaminibus sanitati restitui posset: sciscitabatur qua-
 “lesnam essent medicinæ quæ illi prodesse possent; re-
 “spondi easdem esse, quas ab aliis medicis jam habuerat,
 “videlicet decoctum ligni Indici, sed in majori quanti-
 “tate, & cum alia victus ratione sumptum; qui tandem
 “post multa promisit se omnia facturum. quare expur-
 “gato prius corpore à communibus excrementis cum levi-
 “bus medicinis, iussi, ut biberet decoctum ligni Indici
 “hoc modo, & quoniam ætas erat, mane hora nona
 “vel decima sumebat quinque calices vitreos dicti de-
 “cocti calidi, qui calix sex uncias decocti continebat,
 “post quem potum passulas comedebat ad quatuor usque
 “uncias, & in lectulo coopertus per duas horas manebat,
 “quo in tempore plurimum sudabat, plurimamque min-
 “gebat, nam & per alia tempora decoctum ligni bibit,
 “minimeque potuit sudare, quinque autem horis post
 “prandium ex pane optime decocto, loto in jure parvi
 “pulli sumebat, & aliquid etiam carnis dicti pulli co-
 “medebat, una cum passulis, bibebatque ex secunda de-
 “coctione ad libitum, sed deinde horis à prandio iterum
 “quinque cyathos primæ dictæ decoctionis calidæ bibe-
 “bat, & passulas post comedebat, & in lectulo per duas
 “horas manens cum sudore, & plurima mictu quiescebat,
 “quatuor postea horis à potu cœnabat, cœna tamen sem-
 “per fuit lenior prandio, bibebatque secundam decoctio-
 “nem ad libitum, qui ante xx. diem ita bene habuit, ut,
 “& dolores recesserint, & tumores dissoluti fuerint, &
 “exulcerationes sanatæ fuerint, volui tamen cum dicta
 “regula

ing of note, not only because he probably wrote before Massa, but because

Q 2

Boerhaave

“ regula hominem usque ad quadragesimum procedere
 “ diem, sicque sanus factus, incolumis per multos an-
 “ nos vixit.

Case 2. “ Dominus Johannes Broila vir generosus Magni-
 “ ficus, dives, & nobilis vir, temperaturæ calidæ & siccæ,
 “ cum plurimos annos laborasset morbo Gallico cum tu-
 “ moribus per universum corpus, præsertim in capite, e
 “ quibus plurimi exulcerati erant, cum ossium corrosione
 “ & in capite & facie magis, ita ut non hominis, sed mon-
 “ stri cujusdam speciem præ se ferret. Hic cum tam Tu-
 “ rini, quam Mediolani, & Papiæ plurimos medicos ad sui
 “ curam accersisset, nunquam potuit liberari, neque potu-
 “ decoctionis ligni Indici pluries sumpto, neque inunctio-
 “ nibus plurimis factis, neque postremo suffumigiis uni-
 “ verso corpori administratis, tandem in Galliam, Lugdu-
 “ ni scilicet ad quosdam famigeratos medicos se contu-
 “ lit, qui & ipsi plurimum laborantes nihil fecerunt. hic
 “ cum esset sine spe futuræ sanitatis admonitu quorundam
 “ medicorum ut me Venetias conveniret, Venetias se con-
 “ tulit, mihi que domi narrans omnia præterita, & osten-
 “ dens omnes tumores, ulcera, & ossium corruptiones,
 “ rogabat ut sibi opem ferre vellem, promittens non
 “ ingratum se in me futurum esse. Ego vero postquam
 “ hominem solatus essem, & jussissem esse bono animo
 “ cum esset hiems & frigidissima quidem, jussi ut ma-
 “ neret domi, & custodiret se ab aëre frigido, quiescens
 “ donec tempus mutaretur, non tamen interim defuerunt
 “ auxilia quæ ulceribus subvenirent. superveniente autem
 “ Februario mense hominem expurgavi, jussique ut bibe-
 “ ret decoctum ligni Indici cum mediocri diætâ, quoniam
 “ excarnis,

Boerhaave himself has written highly in his praise. There is however a circumstance

“ excarnis, & macilentissimus erat. ille tamen credens
 “ per cibi abstinentiam citius & melius posse curari, abstinebat, & parum aut nihil, me inscio, comedere volebat, sicque processit bibendo usque ad quinquaginta dies, nec tamen convalere potuit, nam & tumores, & ulcera omnia male se habebant. res denique dimissa fuit naturæ cum optimo regimine cibi, & potus & aliarum rerum necessariarum usque in finem Augusti, quo in tempore expurgato corpore, iterum jussi decoctum ligni illum bibere mane & vesperi usque ad duas libras cum comestione passularum, & in prandio concedebam carnis portionem, & vini pauciferi cum secunda decoctione diluti potum, qui tamen, cum esset severus, & audivisset victum tenuem plurimum prodesse morbo Gallico, non parebat, sed abstinebat & ab usu carnis, & à vini potu. qui & si per duos menses bibisset, non propterea convaluit, sed una cum tumoribus, & malis exulcerationibus languebat. superveniente vero hieme volui illi aliquid præter regimen resumptivum injungere sed una dierum, Famulus quidam sibi carus mihi significabat id esse in causa cur ille non fuerit sanitati restitutus, quoniam non paruit meis mandatis in regimine cibi, & potus. nam cum decoctum ligni bis assumpsisset, nec carnem comedere, nec vinum bibere voluit, & hoc quoniam cæteri medici semper & à vino & à carnibus eum abstinebant. Cum vero Magnificum virum de futura cura alloquerer, dixi illum minime posse sanari, at ille cum audivisset verbum, turbatus quærebat qualis esset causa, respondi quod ipsemet esset causa, quoniam me decipiebat, cum se minime obedientem præberet

stance mentioned by * Astruc on the authority of Gesner, which, if true, shews

Q 3 that

“ præberet meis mandatis, aperuique quæ dixerat mihi
 “ famulus. cumque ego sibi meam visitationem negassem
 “ promisit se omnia, quæ imponerem facturum. cumque
 “ ego hominem obedientem in futurum esse credidi, in
 “ principio veris exhibui iterum decoctum ligni Indici,
 “ usque ad tres libras mane, & vesperi cum comestione
 “ passularum, & in prandio dedi jus pulli, vel vitulinæ
 “ carnis, & portionem carnis ad comedendum, jussique
 “ ut biberet vinum dilutum ad libitum cum secunda de
 “ coctione tam in prandio quam in cœna, neque volui
 “ ut ullo pacto sudaret, sed contentus esset copiosa urinæ
 “ evacuatione. qui hac ratione bibens decoctum per
 “ duos menses, liberatus fuit à tumoribus, & ulceribus,
 “ atque sanus et pinguis ex vini potu distribuentis nutri-
 “ mentum factus, incolumis ad suos consanguineos in
 “ patriam reversus est.

Case 3. “ Item Illustrissimus ac strenuus Princeps
 “ D. M. temperaturæ calidæ ac humidæ, cum subdo-
 “ minio alicujus siccitatis, facientis ad subtiliationem san-
 “ guinis, ætatis consistentiæ, cum passus esset morbum
 “ Gallicum per multos annos, non potuit ex toto libe-
 “ rari quin relinqueretur ulcus magnum in capite bron-
 “ chi, cum quo erant corrosæ cartilagines omnes partis
 “ capitis bronchi anterioris, ut posset unusquisque inte-
 “ riorem partem asperæ arteriæ inspicere, & tangere. ul-
 “ cus quidem erat antiquum ostracosum multorum anno-
 “ rum, os cujus tantæ latitudinis duo digiti simul con-
 “ juncti potuissent facillime ingredi. & cum sapientissimi,
 “ ac

* Astruc, Vol. II. page 250.

that Hutton was deceived in his idea of having obtained a cure ; for according to this author,

“ ac expertissimi medici ejus consolidationem plurimis re-
 “ mediis tentassent, incassum tandem omnia acta fuere,
 “ nam Mediolanenses primarii medici, cum esset Viced-
 “ minus in arce, ei medelam præstiterunt, similiter & Ja-
 “ nuenses primarii medici, nomine inclyti Regis Gallo-
 “ rum, Januæ plurima fecerunt, sed ipsi frustra labora-
 “ runt. postremo reversus est ad Regem, Senioresque, &
 “ famigerati medici Lugduni eam in curam susceperunt
 “ nec propterea ulcus sanari potuit, ulcus vero talis erat
 “ rationis, quod si sine penicillo, vel magno licinio ex
 “ bombace facto adaperitum fuisset, Illustrissimus Princeps
 “ per illud spatium temporis sine voce & dearticulata lo-
 “ cutione manebat, appposito vero licinio sive penicillo ex-
 “ bombace obstruente ulcus, recte, distincte, & sine ali-
 “ qua difficultate loquebatur. erat quidem vir rufi colo-
 “ ris, habens barbam prolixam, coloris flavi, tendentis
 “ ad auri colorem, quæ ulcus perbelle tegebat, & occul-
 “ tabat. & tametsi plurimi essent assistentes nobiles mili-
 “ tes, neminem tamen ulcus erat notum, præter uni, qui
 “ secreto ipsi inserviebat. Accersitus igitur ab Illust.
 “ Principe, ut eum viderem, sic ille me allocutus est.
 “ *Sunt quam plurimi anni quod te videre pro quadam mea*
 “ *mala dispositione desideravi, à qua usque in hunc diem nemo*
 “ *potuit ex medicis me sanitati restituere, audiveram tamen*
 “ *& Mediolani, & Papiæ, & Januæ, & Lugduni, ac etiam*
 “ *in castris Nicolai Massæ nomen, & plures sanatos ab illo.*
 “ *postea quam igitur pro negotiis Inclyti Regis cum Illustrissimo*
 “ *hoc Dominio huc me contuli, rogo te, ut me in tuam tutelam*
 “ *suspicias, donec Venetiis manebo, nam vere non possum tem-*

“ *pus*

author, he was relieved for a time, but not cured by this medicine; and after-

Q 4

wards

“ *pus aliquod determinatum meæ moræ tibi assignare. scio*
 “ *equidem id malum quod nunc ostendam tibi, non cito sanari*
 “ *posse, tu vero quid agendum sit jubebis, & ad omnia me obe-*
 “ *dientum præstabo.* Postquam præfationem, vocavit il-
 “ lum qui ei inferviebat, & ostendit mihi ulcus superius
 “ dictum, quo viso cum essent corrosæ cartilagines an-
 “ teriores capitis bronchi, sic orsus sum, *Illustrissime Prin-*
 “ *ceps non est mirum si tot sapientes, & illustres medici pluri-*
 “ *mum laborarunt, neque ulcus hoc sanare potuerunt, cum*
 “ *pars quæ deperdita est, sit pars membri quod à semine ortum*
 “ *habet, namque membra à semine orta, si deperdita fuerint,*
 “ *nequaquam instaurari in adultis possunt, in pueris parvis,*
 “ *& adolescentulis aliquando hoc visum est, in adultis vero*
 “ *minime, Cæteræ partes quæ à sanguine fiunt, facile re-*
 “ *nascuntur si aliqua de causa deperdantur.* At ille, rogo,
 “ inquit, *ut quotidie huc accedas, & aliquid, ut tibi vide-*
 “ *bitur, faciendum injungas, nam ulcus hoc est derelictum*
 “ *postquam plurimis à medicis factis remediis à morbo Gallico*
 “ *evasi.* Ego vero cum vidissem Illustrissimum Princi-
 “ pem paratum, bonæ habitudinis, & in reliquis corporis
 “ partibus sanum, & tempus esset acceptabile, (erat enim
 “ post pascha in principio veris in fine mensis Aprilis)
 “ expurgavi corpus à communibus intestinorum & pro-
 “ pinquorum membrorum superfluitatibus, bisque sangui-
 “ nem aperta vena jecoraria misi, deinde jussi, ut aquam
 “ decoctionis ligni Indi biberet. qui cum esset assuetus plu-
 “ rimo potui, ut solent Domini Galli facere, cœpit pri-
 “ ma die bibere mane duas libras primæ decoctionis
 “ ligni, ac post passulas comedere, & in lectulo manens
 “ per duas horas sudare, sed ante prandium per duas ho-

“ ras

wards died of the disease. But admitting this to have been the case, by Hutton's own account it appears that he had undergone several courses of mercury before he used guaiacum, and if this medicine did not cure him, yet as it took off his symptoms for a length of time, it may be considered as a useful fact, and will warrant the inference, that by a combination of this medicine with a more judicious use of mercury he would probably have

“ ras bibit ex secunda decoctione libram unam, post quam
 “ duabus horis prandium accepit, & fuit ex pane bis-
 “ cocto & passulis simul, bibitque unam phialam aquæ
 “ secundæ decoctionis; inter prandium & cœnam ex se-
 “ cunda decoctione ad libitum bibebat; quatuor postea
 “ horis ante cœnam iterum primum decoctionis calidæ
 “ tres libras bibit, & in lectulo coopertus manens per
 “ duas horas sudavit, cœna fuit minor prandio, videli-
 “ cet ex pane biscocto & passulis, & potus ex secunda
 “ decoctione ad libitum, processit Illustris Dominus sem-
 “ per potum primæ decoctionis tam matutinum quam
 “ vespertinum augendo, & etiam secundæ decoctionis
 “ in prandio & cœna, ut tandem ex prima decoctione
 “ octo phialas biberet, & ex secunda decem & duodecim,
 “ aliquando cum plurimo sudore, & copiosissimo mictu
 “ & secessu; & hoc fuit per spatium quinquaginta dierum
 “ in quo tempore sexaginta & plus libras ligni Indici ad
 “ magnam stateram consumpsit: super ulcus vero capitis
 “ bronchi

have been perfectly cured. Even the mere palliation of symptoms like those he has described is a sufficient proof that it has some efficacy; for mercury itself, when employed in the modern way, for the same symptoms has frequently no better effect: and I have more than once known a subsequent course, cure, when the preceding one has only enervated the disease. This man's case was a pox of long standing, for he had been diseased for eight years. Among other symptoms he

“ bronchi quater in die apponebatur cotton madefactum
 “ spuma primæ decoctionis, nam dum coquerent lignum,
 “ spumam ad hanc medelam servabant; sicque Dei om-
 “ nipotentis gratia, & auxilio præter aliquam spem, Il-
 “ lustrissimus D. evasit sanato & consolidato ulcere epi-
 “ glottidis, ex toto callo, loco cartilaginis, supergenera-
 “ to; res profecto mira, & digna ut literis ad hominum
 “ languentium utilitatem, & medentium instructionem
 “ mandetur: Possem & plura alia miracula, quantitatis
 “ operationis decoctionis ligni Indici, quæ in meden-
 “ do in dies à me visa sunt, scribere, sed ii tres casus a
 “ me recitati, satis erunt, ut homines aliquando in max-
 “ imo morbo Gallico se convalere posse confidant. quod
 “ si quis alios ægrotos cum sævissimis accidentibus,
 “ maximis & fortibus remediis, sanitati restitutos esse scire
 “ desiderat, illud assequetur facile, si universum proces-
 “ sum istius libri legere voluerit.” Aphrod. pag.
 cap. x. Nich. Massa.

he had nocturnal pains, nodes, and a gummatous tumour, which rendered him incapable of raising one of his arms. If symptoms like these can be removed for a time by guaiacum, it is well worth the enquiry how far it may, under certain circumstances, be revived, and still retained, among our other antivenereal remedies.

Some of the early writers seem to me to have been fully sensible, that this was a remedy only for the late secondary symptoms of the disease. Massa employed it successfully in that particular stage of it, in which the periosteum, the internal muscular and aponeurotic surfaces and bones were affected.

I apprehend if we had not at this period of the disease, the above facts to guide us, yet that its known power in rheumatism would lead us from analogy to employ it in venereal pains. The same parts are frequently affected in the one disease as in the other. As in the one, so is there frequently in the other, a disposition to metastasis. The
metas-

metastases are indeed specifically different: but this symptom, of all the others, which attend a late pox, seems to me to be that which mercury has the least power over; and I think it very probable, that by uniting the properties of Guaiacum with those of mercury, we may frequently obtain what is not generally obtainable by either singly. Every person who has been much versed in practice, must be fully sensible of the difficulty of effecting cures when the disease has acquired a strong propensity to these transmutations, and it is, I believe, to the prevention of these, that the properties of Guaiacum are particularly applicable. Or, if without curing the disease, it will only stop the progress of a venereal carries, more especially when the nose or palate are affected, it would be highly valuable. According to the account given by those who have relied on this medicine, it appears that it does not relieve under a number of days; it is not therefore to be compared with the decisive effects of mercury, for stopping
the

the destructive progress of a late symptom. However, it is evident from the authority of Boerhaave, that it has great effect, in a venereal caries of the palate, nose, and fauces and therefore in that particular case, in which these parts are injured, and there is at the same time, diseased spongy gums, with a disposition to salivate too readily, it may, perhaps, be singularly efficacious as an assistant to the more powerful, general use of mercury.

The early and late symptoms of the disease appear, though specifically allied, to have very different effects on the constitution, and without any stretch of fancy, it may be fairly presumed, that each period may require, a treatment somewhat different. In short, though I can readily allow that, with respect to some of the late symptoms, the disease must be cured, or enervated by the specific in the first instance.

Yet it is more than probable, that Guaiacum may have no inconsiderable share of power, in promoting the usual operation of mercury, or in relieving some of those irre-

gular anomalous symptoms, to which no precise name has been affixed, and which it is very difficult to determine, whether they arise from the relics of the disease, the remedy, or the action of other circumstances on the constitution.

A practice of dividing the periosteum, during a mercurial course, in the cure of a very painful node, in order to lessen distention, has been recommended by Mr. Bromfield. I can readily conceive, that this may sometimes be necessary, particularly when the pain is excruciating, and the action of the specific too slow, or too sluggish to produce ease within a short space of time. I had once occasion to do this operation, and from that case, I am rather inclined to trust to the anti-venereal effects of the remedy, than to this local treatment. But there may, notwithstanding, be cases, in which it may be advisable, not only on the above principle, but as a means of checking the rapid progress of the disease, under the periosteum.

With

With respect to venereal enlargements of the joints, they require no treatment distinct from that which is necessary, for every other secondary symptom. Nor do, those called gummata, which sometimes arise on muscles, or aponeurotic parts, nor those kind of sores, which sometimes come on, as a consequence of the latter, in which there is either an appearance of glaire, or of floughiness, resembling that of a semiputrid tendon.

Ozæna.

The celebrated Boerhaave was well aware of all the horrid consequences, which sometimes attend this dreadful symptom. In order to settle its diagnosis, a very minute inspection into the two nostrils, the mouth, palate, velum pendulum palati, pharynx, and tonsils, is necessary; for it most frequently happens, that the affection, though perhaps principally occupying the nose, is yet not confined merely to that part; the voice of the patient, which is sometimes much altered

altered from its natural tone, the seat of the pain, which is generally towards the root of the nose, the purulency and fœtor of the discharge, which are frequently not only disagreeable to bystanders, but to the patient himself, the state of his previous symptoms, the ulceration, if in sight, appearing like lard, the cartilages of the nose and *alæ nasi* being shrunk, attenuated, or ulcerated, an unhealthy countenance, leanness, real or anomalous, venereal pains, venereal head ach, particularly if between the frontal sinuses and above the root of the nose, are the circumstances to be enquired after and attended to.

The treatment for this symptom should, I apprehend, be varied according to the state of it. If the diseased affection is confined merely to the nose, without any apparent affection of the fauces, palate, bones, or tonsils, in that case, even though from the laxity of the patient's gums, a disposition to salivate readily may be expected, yet I think, that the decisive effects of the medicine can scarcely be produced

duced too early; because experience fully shews, in a great variety of cases, that these are the true means of checking the farther progress of all ulcerations, clearly venereal. The confinement should therefore be strict, and the doses of the medicine large, in order that its operation may be quick; the propriety of this practice is sufficiently evident, from the case, mentioned Page 26. Vol. II. in which the rapid progress of the disease was certainly checked immediately, if not entirely cured, by a very small quantity of mercury, suddenly producing the usual decisive symptoms. Having then in the first instance, stopped the progress of the ulceration by the above means, the extinction, and perfect cure of the disease are to be attempted, as in every other late symptom, in which a similar mode of treatment is followed.

Having professed myself an enemy to all mercurial topics, where they can be clearly avoided; and knowing in the symptom under consideration, both from its malignity, and the late time of the
disease

disease, at which it generally appears, that mere palliatives can avail but little, I would rather trust to general, than local means of relief. I cannot, therefore, recommend the indiscriminate use of a cinabar fumigation, though it is in this case, a common application, excepting in that particular habit, in which the specific will probably act too slowly without some such spur. And here, it will be, no doubt, an effectual assistant, to the too weak action of the general remedy, and at the same time, a strong and powerful corrector of the local mischief.

But when the ulceration, and the carries of the bones are deep and extensive, affecting not only the nose, but the palate, if the patient has at the same time bad teeth, and spongy, unhealthy gums, in that case, I say, that the putrefaction, generated by the disease, may be so heightened by the local effects of mercury, if it should act on the mouth with any degree of violence, as to do the greatest injury. The specific should therefore be introduced fairly, but gradually, either

with a considerable interval between each dose; or by moderate doses; and as mercurial antiseptics; Ward's Drop largely diluted, a very weak solution of sublimate, or a lotion *ex calomel et aq. rosar.* may be used with an armed probe. But such is generally the strong tendency to salivation in this case, that when applied to the parts within the mouth, even these mild mercurials are hardly safe; for they may raise a sudden and unexpected defluxion about the fauces. Frequent gargling with barley water, or a decoction of carrots, will, when the mouth and fauces are affected with disease, be useful. And the habit and state of the ulceration may be corrected, in some measure, by the exhibition of bark, opium, and a proper attention to diet, but it is principally from the fair action of the specific on the system, that the patient must expect a cure.

Some writers have had an idea that a cinnabar fumigation would dry up these kind of ulcerations, prematurely, and before the disease, of which it is certainly
 one

one of the worst symptoms, could be cured. I can only say, that the most inveterate cases of ozænæ, I have seen, have been either relapses after the use of this topic, or from a too partial operation of the general means of cure. The very delicate and spongy texture of the bones, generally concerned in this affection, is such, that though the periosteum and pituitary membrane are the parts which are previously affected with disease, and though exfoliation does sometimes take place from them, yet we also sometimes find, that when the ulcerations are inveterate, and have spread with great rapidity, so as to injure the whole of a small bone, whether of the nose or palate, such bone separates at the suture and comes away entire.

When the spreading of the ulcerations and putridity are lessened by the above means, the cure of the disease may be afterwards effected by urging the general remedy to the proper point. Sarsaparilla and Guaiacum may be here singularly serviceable, and employed with

the other means of relief. The authorities adduced in support of this opinion will, I hope, warrant me in submitting my conjectures to the public, as objects for future enquiry.—With respect to the former of these medicines, I know of no situation in which it may not be with safety used. But, with regard to Guaiacum, it has been interdicted, and I think with great propriety, in those who are naturally hectic, who have weak lungs, and a disposition to phthisis pulmonalis. And, if there is a tendency to hectic, from any other cause (that arising from the venereal disease only excepted) it will be also improper.

As to the treatment of a venereal hectic or marasmus, with which the foregoing symptoms are very often combined, the plan long since laid down, and adopted by Massa * is certainly no contemptible one. Mercury should be employed first as an ameliorant and alterative in the smallest doses, and with caution, so that the patient may rather gain strength gradually

* Vide Note, page 216.

gradually under the remedy, than lose it by its sudden and too forcible action. Every thing that can tend to mend the state of the animal juices, and invigorate the system, will be also necessary. Opium to procure natural rest, milk, country air, and bark, may be used, but even this plan should be pursued under some degree of confinement. When the pulse rises, and he gains strength under this treatment, the medicine may be more forcibly urged for the complete eradication of the disease. Mercury is certainly the best, if not the only cure, for a pox; but in cases where the system is so far debilitated, that it cannot bear the natural operation of this medicine, in the form and way in which it is usually exhibited, it will be in vain to attempt a cure in that manner. There is probably in every such debility a tendency to putrescency, which this medicine will infallibly increase, if used in large quantities. This matter is, indeed, at present an uncertain one; and not yet, regulated by any fixed points, or well

adjusted scale ; but, though unascertained, these points are still discoverable. I must request of the reader to return back to that remarkable case of unexpected salivation, Vol. II. page 51. note, he will thence see the great difficulty of effecting a cure under the disadvantages of a pox thoroughly established, in a habit injured by climate, intemperance, and disease. But great as the difficulty was, it is evident to me, if this person's constitution had not been greatly debilitated, and his secretory organs very much relaxed by a warm climate, under which situation he was probably strongly disposed to salivate readily ; that the local application of a powerful mercurial to the pustules on the surface of his body, would not have rendered the cure more difficult, nor caused that repulsion of symptoms, which affected him for so long a time. It is evident from this instance that a certain degree of strength and health are absolutely necessary ; not only to support the constitution, under the powerful action of this medicine,

medicine, but that this action cannot be made to take place, fully and fairly, without them.

I cannot close the cure of this division of symptoms, without calling the reader's attention once more to the leading principles of practice, contained in the foregoing pages. I will shelter myself under no subterfuge, nor court the applause of the world, by humouring prevailing ignorance, or unjust prejudices: what experience has fully shewed me, that I will venture to disclose, let the consequences be as they may. And I do assert, and from long observation, that when salivation can be conducted with the precautions mentioned in some of the foregoing pages, so as to bring on the proper decisive effects of the medicine, within the short period of little more than three weeks, that it is both as a method of cure for secondary symptoms, and as a mode of using mercury infinitely more certain in its operation, and less hurtful to the constitution, than any other with which I am acquainted.

To compare an alterative course with it would be to depreciate it; and it is much more safe than any other modification of ordinary salivation, in which the cure under confinement runs out to a much greater length; because the quantity of mercury employed is much less, and its effects by no means violent.

If it be objected that this time of cure is too short; I say if the state of the patient be such as to bear ʒi. or $\text{ʒiss ung. mercur. fort.}$ at each friction during the first week; ʒij. or more during the second week, and a small quantity more, during the third week, that the proper effects may be produced in many cases within this period. I regret very much that a propensity to salivate too readily, will too often render these doses, and this plan improper; and on the other hand, an inaptitude to salivation will sometimes unavoidably prolong the time of cure, and increase the aggregate quantity of the medicine. But when the case is clearly otherwise; when
the

the remedy acts in a kindly manner, gradually producing a tendency to a fore mouth, and allowing also, of that gradual increase in the quantity of the medicine, to the beginning or middle of the third week, the decisive effects then shewing themselves fully ; I say when a patient is fortunate enough to have a constitution that will allow of this, that such method of cure has ever appeared to me to be much more safe and effectual than any other. If it will cure venereal ophthalmiæ, venereal sarcocoeles, gummatous swellings, nodes, obstinate venereal ulcerations of the tongue, &c. there can be no doubt of its curing other symptoms ; and that it has frequently done this, I can very safely aver.

Cure of Anomalous symptoms.

When treating of these symptoms, it was said (Vol. I. page 128) that they might be divided into three classes, namely; into those which were owing to the suppressed and remote effects of
the

the remedy, when improperly used; into those, which were the genuine effects of the disease, but appearing in a broken, and, as it were, disjointed manner; and that, others were indeed the consequences of the disease, but without latent venereal mischief.

With respect to the first of these classes, having quoted the case of the girl who was under Dr. Sylvester's care, mentioned in the London Medical Observations, I must add, that in the same valuable work, Vol. VI. there is another instance, given by Dr. Dobson, of a train of anomalous, mercurial symptoms arising from a suppressed salivation. These and the case already mentioned, are sufficient proofs that disagreeable consequences do sometimes follow, when a check has been given to the natural action of this medicine, on the salivary glands and skin. Having also adduced two instances of palsy, which I think may very fairly be set to the same account, I shall pass over the ill effects, which do sometimes come on

in a severe alterative course, from the action of cold, drinking, and other irregularities, when the system is loaded with this medicine, and in the act of producing its putrefactive and evacuant effects; at a time when the pulse is unavoidably raised to a very high pitch with every pore, and every secretion open. And having called the reader's attention to these facts, in the present universal phrensy for alterative methods of cure, I can only lament that the obvious means of prevention, I mean an exclusion from a free communication with the external atmosphere, under a mild and well regulated regimen, is not more generally practised. Having shewn, that even in the warm climate of Venice and Italy, such a precaution was some centuries ago adopted, I am astonished to find that it has not more generally prevailed in this country: a country, perhaps of all others, from the great variability of its atmosphere, more inimical to the action of mercury than any other. I shall next proceed to the consideration

consideration of some other circumstances, in the operation of the remedy, worthy our most serious attention.

If we were to set the intrinsic merit of a mercurial course under regimen and confinement, as a means of curing the disease, out of the question, and compare the effects of the remedy, when used in this way, with a long and severe alterative course, we shall see a considerable difference. In the one, there is a quick operation of the remedy, opposed to a slow one; in the other, effects which are natural and unequivocal, opposed to a laborious, and often a suppressed action; in the one, a complete and speedy subsidence of all the disagreeable phenomena necessarily attending its operation; in the other, a number of complaints clearly deducible from its retention, and from its continuing to exert its effects for a length of time on the constitution, after the patient has ceased to use it. In one person I remember salivation was produced, by dancing six weeks after the discontinuance of an alterative course; and

it is worthy of note, that this salivation, though violent, did not prevent the termination of the disease in nodes. I have often seen, even several months after the use of mercury in this way, that sore throats, resembling slight mercurial affections of the fauces, would come on, last a few days, and then go; and upon a slight cold, dancing, drinking, or using violent exercise, return again; which sufficiently proves, that a portion of mercury, in each of these cases, was actually existing in the system, in a state of suppression; to which portion one or more of the above circumstances, by increasing the circulation, gave the usual, though slight effect, on the mouth and salivary glands. And these anomalous mercurial effects, I have very frequently observed many months after the discontinuance of an alterative course.

Some of the effects of this medicine were said to be putrefactive—when these have been kept up in the system for a length of time, as in the case of the Medical Gentleman, page 128. perhaps
a dif-

a disposition, truly scorbutic, may be raised. By scorbutic, I here mean, a putrid disease, resembling, in some respects, the sea scurvy. And this will, in some measure, account for that tenderness of the fibula and periosteum, of which this person complained, and which ceased upon his discontinuing the medicine.

It is not to be wondered at, if obstinate rheumatic pains, of the chronic kind, sometimes follow upon the free use of mercury, when it is considered that quick and frequent transitions from heat to cold will frequently produce them in those who have never been under a mercurial course. It matters not whether the pores be opened and the body be heated by violent exercise, or by the strong action of such a stimulant as mercury; in either case, the transition, upon the application of cold, must be great; whether that cold arises from the evaporation, produced by the contact of wet cloaths, with the surface of the body; from an imprudent exposure to a current

rent of air; or from the action of the dry, Easterly winds of this country on that vapour, which is constantly flying off from the skin, and is called, the insensible perspiration. How many hundreds are there who overlook, or really are ignorant of the critical situation, in which mercurial courses unavoidably place them, and indulge in all their usual amusements, riding, dancing, drinking, &c. That many have irreparably injured their constitutions by irregularities of this kind, and that some have fallen victims, at a very early period of life, to acute diseases, of the peripneumonic kind, I have no doubt; and from these causes solely.

Having shewn that the action of this medicine has a tendency to increase the disposition to hectic in every the best possible temperament, but more particularly in that, in which the constitution is highly and delicately sanguineous, in order to determine whether this medicine is absolutely necessary for the extirpation of venereal complaints, and can be employed

ployed in the one method, with more safety than the other, I have only to enumerate the leading circumstances of each method, and will then leave the question with any medical man. In the alterative method there must be a larger quantity used than in the other; that quantity, large as it generally is, must act for a much longer space of time; that natural cure for its stimulating effects, the depletion of the lymphatic system, which takes place when the mouth is affected in the other method, is repressed in this by exposure to air, and some other secretion must supply the deficiency; that secretion may take place from the kidneys, or the skin, or from both; if from the pores of the skin the patient runs as much risque upon an unguarded exposure to cold, as he does, who, after heating his body with violent exercise, exposes himself to the same danger; but with this very material difference in the two cases; that in the one, the animal juices are not injured, previous to such exposure,

but

but in the other, they have been long worked upon by a medicine which produces general debility, and inclines them to a particular species of attenuation, or putrefaction. And, if a topical peripneumonic inflammation, in such a case, occurs, it is generally violent, and, from the tendency in the habit to putridity, is accompanied with a peculiar degree of acrimony. In short, if the one method be well conducted, upon the completion of a cure, the symptoms of the disease, and the effects of the remedy subside together. Not so in the other, for though the disease be cured, time alone can take off its stimulating effects; and, till they perfectly subside, be it for weeks or months, so long must the person treated be liable, upon committing any indiscretion, to the accidents I have enumerated.

As to the treatment of that hectic, which does not arise from the venereal disease, but from irregularities or mismanagement, in a habit already pre-

disposed; I can only say, that it is much more easy to prevent its ill consequences, by an early and proper attention to regimen, habit, and the mode of using mercury, than to cure it. As a situation of this sort comes more immediately within the province of the physician than surgeon, I shall only remark, that when such tendency to hectic has been greatly heightened, during a mercurial course, by one or more colds, or other accidents; if there is much hardness of the pulse, a cough, or other symptoms, indicating the slightest peripneumonic inflammation, [that the specific should be immediately discontinued; And, when these symptoms are removed, it may be afterwards employed in a more careful manner. There are only a few venereal symptoms which are immediately, or suddenly dangerous: and even these are generally of less consequence, than the accidents above mentioned. Besides that kind of medical treatment which these circumstances sometimes render necessary, but which

I do

I do not mean to enter into; the flannels should be changed for clean ones, the pores of the skin should be kept open by moderate warmth, within the house, and, as a means of quieting the universal irritation, opium, after proper evacuations, &c. will frequently be of the greatest service. When it can be used with propriety, it will, I believe, be found the best (and indeed in many cases) the only remedy against the stimulating effects of mercury.

With respect to the treatment of chronic rheumatism, arising as a consequence of inattention, during an alterative course, or after a cure under confinement I must refer the reader to the general practice of physic, for similar affections. I can only say, that the properties of Guaiacum seem to me admirably well adapted to this particular case. If the pains which sometimes follow the free use of mercury be carefully attended to, it will, I believe, be generally found, that stimulants, of whatever kind they may be, will have, at least, a temporary good effect. Whe-

ther this arises from the sedative power which the specific, after a long use of it, exerts upon the constitution, I cannot say, but having often noticed the good effects of other stimulants, it is, I think, probable, that the above medicine may be singularly useful. And, upon a similar principle, the mercurial preparations in small doses have been frequently employed with success. As a powerful assistant to the natural action of the specific, in whatever way it may be deemed necessary to use it, no man, in a climate like that of England, should ever venture upon an alterative course, without defending his body with a callico, or, what is better, a flannel shirt, flannel drawers, and worsted understockings; nor should any one go suddenly into the open air, after a course under confinement, without the same precautions. Trifling as these circumstances may seem, the neglect of them has, I am convinced, cost many a man his life, and been the true cause of ill health to no inconsiderable number of individuals.

With

With respect to those anomalous symptoms, in which the disease may be said to be rather suppressed than cured, they are, though suppressed, either clearly venereal, or they are obscurely so. If the former should be the case, they must be treated as other secondary symptoms; but if the syphilitic appearances and symptoms should be doubtful, the matter becomes delicate, and should be well considered. Under these circumstances, absolute certainty is not always to be gained, even from the most minute investigation. The symptoms may warrant the suspicion of a latent disease, and yet not amount to a complete proof, that such disease is the cause of them. Under such a situation, much attention should be paid to the constitution of the patient, and to his feelings. If a man thinks at all, the idea of having the lurking seeds of this deplorable malady within him, is a sword perpetually hanging over his head; it mixes with his most secret thoughts, damps every pursuit, and poisons every comfort of his life. There are certainly many men,
 whose

whose minds are more injured than their bodies; but when a practitioner, from a due consideration of all circumstances, though he cannot say, positively, that the symptoms amount to what is, strictly speaking, venereal; yet, if it is probable that they will, in a course of time, become so, it is a presumption to go upon. In this, as in some other critical situations, the man of judgment will sometimes find enough to direct him, without clear and absolute proof; and, when that judgment has been duly formed, it is for the patient to determine, whether he will be guided by it; and, by taking a bold and decided part, free himself, at once, from all probable danger, by submitting to a full and unequivocal operation from the remedy. When it is considered how forcibly the idea of latent venereal mischief will act upon some minds, even to the production of diseases, no less distressing, and infinitely more difficult of cure than the venereal, I think of two evils, a man chuses the least, who pursues the great, broad line of conduct,

and,

and, by following that, either cures himself of the disease, if he has it ; or, what is sometimes no less distressing, of his apprehensions, if he has not.

When I say this, I must remind the reader that there are some constitutions so framed by nature, that they will bear mercurial courses with perfect safety ; nay there are probably some, which mercury will essentially serve ; but there are others which it will certainly injure : and this last consideration should always operate, as a powerful dissuasive.

Having explained my sentiments on this difficult matter, with that openness and freedom, which experience has insensibly led me to, and which reason, I hope, will warrant, I must add, that it has been long a desideratum to procure relief, in anomalous cases, by less certain and direct means. The small progress hitherto made in our knowledge of the suppressed state of the disease, our ignorance of the remote effects of the remedy, and of the consequences frequently arising from accidents which
happen

happen, either during, or subsequent to a cure, have given to modern quackery the appearance of doing more than it can, in justice, pretend to.

In every stage of lues venerea the symptoms may certainly be damped, though the disease be not cured. In proportion as it has been more or less broken down by the previous means of cure, so it is easy to keep it under. And, in this way, from the slightest effects of the specific, may the temporary appearance of a cure be sometimes produced.

But it may be asked, whether the disease, after having been more thoroughly enervated, does not sometimes return (if I may so say) to that leprous state, to which it, perhaps, originally owed its rise. If this idea be well founded, it may be readily conceived, that *Æthiops antim. pulv. plumm. decoct. Lusitan**. and the

* *Decoet. Lusitan.* R *Antimon. crud.* ʒi. (in nodulo ligat.) *Lap. Pumic.* pp. (etiam in nodulo ligat.) *Rad. Sarsap.* *China contus.* a ʒfs. *Nuc. jugland. integ.* No. X. *Coque in aq. fontan. lib. iv. ad lib ij.*

the smallest doses of the saline preparations of mercury may have been eminently useful. With respect to the *decoct. lusit.* there may be many prescriptions for this medicine; but the most unexceptionable I have seen, is that which bears the name of Van Swieten. If this medicine be duly considered, there seems to be but two ingredients of any efficacy in it; these are the *antim. crud.* and *nuc. jugland.* for with respect to the Sarsaparilla and China, they seem to be in too small quantities to be really serviceable; and, as to the pumice stone, I know of no kind of use it can possibly be in the composition.

However, I believe, there can be no doubt of the good effects of both these ingredients in leprous affections; and, if the medicine possesses any activity, it is principally to them, that it owes its reputation.

Having explained that decisive conduct which should, in my opinion, direct us, both in regard to the diagnosis, and,

after that, in the method of cure; I leave every man at liberty to combat, doubtful symptoms by an indecisive and equivocal treatment; for my own part, I will not do it. Having once fixed what the disease, probably, is, I know of no plan so unexceptionable as that I have pointed out; and the method pursued should, I apprehend, be conducted under confinement, by uniting frictions with the saline preparations of mercury, and availing ourselves, according to circumstances, either of Guaiacum, Sarsaparilla, or both. A very successful instance of a cure, upon a plan of this kind may be seen, Vol. II. page 79. That cure was effected ten years ago, and the lady has ever since enjoyed perfect health: and many more instances of success, from a similar mode of treatment might be given.

Having, in the foregoing pages, shewn, in a great variety of circumstances that the great leading effects of the specific must be attended to, in every mode of cure, how much soever the several me-

thods may be diversified by the preparation used, by the combination of one preparation with another, or by uniting the power of other medicines with the antivenereal properties of mercury; I must request of the reader to observe that those effects have been shewn to be precisely the same, whether they are raised at *an early or late period*. With these a practitioner may, if he pleases, begin; but with these, he should, in my opinion, if he means to cure the disease, as well as take off the symptoms, generally end his course.

END OF VOL. II.

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urate; last l. for *disease* read *in*. p. 33. l. 17. ad. s.
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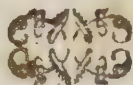
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